

to carry. In my previous "remarks" upon this horse I pointed out that I had a "sneaking regard" always for a V.R.C. Handicap winner. I have a fancy that he will "do" Oxide; and that he will prove "too much" for St. Blaize over this distance.

Forty Winks, 7st 6lb, ran third in the Australian Cup with 7st 9lb. I am constrained to think that the distance is rather far for him judging by his performance in the above event. Besides, some of the other "good 'uns" met him on far better terms now. For instance, Freedom 3lbs, Tirailleur 8lbs, G'Naroo 3lbs, Portsea 4lbs, Oxide 5lbs, and so on; whereas he met Highborn, the winner, and Strathmore, the second horse, on only 3lbs and 9lbs better terms, which is certainly not enough.

Althotas I don't know.

Sunshine, 7st 2lb, ran well in the Spring, and got a good second to Highborn at Rosehill. He meets the latter on 10lbs better terms than then; but I presume the distance is too far. If he wins it will be a great surprise indeed.

Sainfoin, at the same weight, reads better to my mind. He is by Richmond, and very often that breed requires a little time to ripen. This horse ran second to Strathmore in the Foal Stakes, 1¼ miles, on the last day of the V.R.C. Spring Meeting. Of course this is a longer journey, but he meets his former opponent on 18lbs better terms; besides which, he may not have been quite "ripe." I am inclined to believe that he will run well, and "put down" Sunshine, St. Helene, and Jack.

The distance should be too far for these three, notwithstanding the last-named's good performance in the Brunswick Stakes, 1¼ miles, on 27th February last.

La Tosca, 7st, is in the same stable as Strathmore and Zalinski, therefore it will be difficult to ascertain the stable fancy. She cut out a fast mile and a-quarter, carrying 7st 5lb, in the V.R.C. Spring Handicap. On that running she should hold Yarran and Dick safe, always provided they can all "get" the two miles. I think it is safer to trust Zalinski for this event.

Mitre, 6st 8lb, is a five-year-old, and might be labelled "dangerous." I look upon him as the most dangerous of the six stone division by a long way.

Yowi, 6st 2lb, who won the Metropolitan Handicap, carrying 6st 7lb, may be considered by some to have "a show," but I am afraid the company on this occasion will prove "too pure" to repeat that dose.

Selkirk, 6st, is said to be a "good 'un," but I am constrained to include him in the same category with Yowi and Co.

Reviewing my "remarks" of last week and those above as well, I find I have most favourably commented upon the chances of Freedom, Marvel, Zalinski, Highborn, G'Naroo, Portsea, Sainfoin, La Tosca (if selected) and Mitre, but shall reserve the right of a final selection till next issue, although I expect to be in possession of good information by Monday next. At present I am disposed to think the placed division will come from the above eight.

#### HELENSVILLE RACES.

ABOUT 300 people left Auckland by the special train at 9.25 a.m. on Saturday to attend the annual race meeting of the Helensville Jockey Club. The day was magnificently fine, tempered with a nice light breeze, and everything bid fair for a good day's racing; and so it proved to be, although the fields were small when compared with the large acceptances. The course is a splendid one and was in first-class order, and the stewards and other officials performed their various duties satisfactorily. One want was felt—there was no band to enliven the proceedings, but the distance from town is so great that the expense of bringing one up would perhaps be greater than circumstances warranted. Mr. E. D. Halstead succeeded in making some very close finishes by his handicapping. Mr. W. Blomfield worked a totalisator on the ground, but very little business was done, only £449 being passed through in ten-shilling tickets. Games of chance and the speling fraternity were there in large numbers, plying their several avocations with vigour and evident success to themselves. The first race was the Maiden Plate, which brought out a field of nine, eight on the card being absentees. Assassin, by Badsworth

—Jet, 8st, was made favourite, and justified the confidence reposed in him by winning in a canter from Potentate, 7st 5lbs, and Kate, 7st 10lbs. The Hack Race proved somewhat of a boil-over, there being seven contestants. Success, 7st 0lbs, and Fusilier, 7st 4lbs, were made warm favourites. Mr. J. L. Stewart's ch m Spot, 6st 10lbs., won with the greatest of ease, Fusilier second and Success third, the nice little dividend of £5 17s. for 10s. being the result. Ingorina was served up very warmly for the Helensville Cup, but after a splendid race, in which the Ingomar—Hipporina horse was never dangerous, Ida was beaten on the post by a neck by the unreliable Brigade, who was well ridden by Gallagher, Ingorina third. Miss Sly, who by the way is a full sister to the Auckland Derby winner Morion, was the only other starter. The Novel Race was fourth on the card; and this time five out of the eight came to the post. Spot, by her running in the Hack Race, was greatly fancied for this event, and she did not disappoint her backers, for she won easily, doing the mile in 1min. 52 3-5th sec. On being submitted to the hammer she was knocked down to Mr. D. McLeod for £22. The Hurdles was reckoned a good thing for Assassin, but the winner unexpectedly turned up in Potentate, who beat the favourite by a neck after a good race, Cloth of Gold being third. The concluding event of the day proved a most exciting finish between Ida and Brigade, the former reversing the Cup verdict by a head, Kildare third. There were two other starters. This brought the meeting to a close in ample time to catch the train, for town visitors got back about 9 p.m. after an enjoyable day's outing.

#### TARANAKI J.C. ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE Anniversary meeting of the Taranaki Jockey Club was opened on Thursday, under most favourable auspices. The weather was splendid, the attendance exceptionally large, speculation on the machine was brisk, the fields were big, and the finishes were all of an interesting description. The officers of the Club all worked well in carrying out the programme, which was got through without a single hitch. The starter's flag was wielded by Mr. Sam Powell, who was asked to officiate at the request of Mr. Jas. Paul, the Club's starter. In every instance Mr. Powell effected an even start, and thus maintained the reputation he has achieved as a starter. The handicapping was good—the race for the big Handicap being the best instance of this, as the nine starters were all fair in it half-way up the straight. Mr. Evtitt must have felt gratified at the splendid results of his adjustments. The totalisator was worked by Messrs. Cohen and Stock, of Napier, who gave general satisfaction to the patrons of the machine. During the day they put through a total of £2,653, which is over £600 more than the first day last year. Mr. R. G. Bauchope, the hon. secretary of the Club, carried out his duties in a manner that left nothing to be desired, and the success of the meeting in a great measure was due to his energy and tact.

Business opened with the Hack Hurdles, for which six weighed out. On the fall of the flag Recruit set out to make the running, closely attended by Baccarat, with Flukem, Atlantic and Security handy, and Cingalee (whose rider was apparently making a waiting race) last. At the third jump Baccarat struck heavily, and carried away a section of the jump, but managed to keep his feet. At the back, about three furlongs from home, Recruit and Baccarat still led, but here Pell brought Flukem up, and running past the pair took the lead over the next jump. Cingalee was still a long way in the rear, and appeared to be out of the hunt. Flukem came on, full of running, and negotiating the last jump clear of Baccarat and Recruit won by about two lengths. Cingalee, who was ridden in a peculiar way, came very fast at the finish, cut down Baccarat and Recruit, and secured second place. Had Collelo ridden Cingalee with a bit more judgment she must have won, but the excuse was that he was instructed to ride a waiting race, and he did so. Flukem paid £4. Time, 2min 33sec (1¼ miles).

The Hack Scurry Stakes produced a field of

six. Playboy, who was neglected on the machine, managed to do the trick after a tough tussle with Badger, an importation from Auckland. The dividend was £18 4s., and the five furlongs were cut out in 1min 5 1-5th secs. The winner was submitted to auction, but was passed in.

For the big Handicap nine weighed out. Whisper was made a great favourite, with St. Malo next in favour. Krina, The Dreamer, and Prestige were also well backed. The Manaia mare Weka rushed to the front as soon as the flag fell, and led her field along at a merry bat for 1¼ miles. So strong was she going that it was reckoned she would stay all the way, but two furlongs from home the field closed on her, and a most interesting struggle ensued. As the nine turned into the straight they were all of a heap, and whips were being freely used. Within the distance, however, Prestige, the Wanganui rep., shook himself clear of the cluster, and established a lead under the whip. At this point Scot Free made a bid for victory, but could only get within three-quarters of a length of Prestige. St. Malo was third, about a length away; and the rest were all in a cluster at his heels. The 1¼ miles was cut out in 2min 39 2-5th sec., but several private watches made it 2min 38½sec. Scot Free must have just got home if he had not been kept in the rear too long. The backers of the half brother of Dudu were rewarded with a dividend of £7 12s. Awarua Rose pulled up lame after the race.

Twelve horses went out for the Hack Flat. Armoury made the running for six furlongs, when Nugget collared him and assumed the lead. Nearing the home turn, however, Flukem put in his claim, and Nugget and he ran locked together up the straight, Flukem squeezing home under the whip by a head. Time, 1min 48½sec. Dividend, £7 19s.

Six contested the Welter Handicap, which fell to Torpedo, who won with a bit to spare from St. Malo; Musket a good third. Time, 1min 49 2-5th sec. Dividend, £2 6s.

For the Pony Race, five furlongs, thirteen ran. Rodney assumed command on the fall of the flag, and although hotly chased up the straight by Fly and Poppy, managed to get home by a length. Fly got blocked in the early part of the race, otherwise she must have won. Time, 1min 7½sec. Dividend, £3 1s.

For the Flying Handicap six competed, the winner turning up in Prestige, who beat Lochness on the post; Weka a good third. Time, 1 min. 16 3-5th secs. Dividend, £3 15s. This concluded the programme.

Full particulars will be found in our Turf Record columns.

A protest was entered against Rodney, the winner of the Pony Race, on the ground that he ran at an unregistered meeting at Auckland in September last. The stewards considered the protest, and dismissed it on the ground that such disqualification had been removed.

Prestige, I hear, has been sold for £300.

McKeague, the Wanganui light-weight, had four wins. Two on Prestige, one on Flukem, and one on Rodney. P. Johnston had one win, McLauchlan one, and Pell one.

The weather was cloudy for the second day's racing, and about noon a drizzling rain set in and made things uncomfortable for a time, but about two o'clock Old Sol asserted himself, and the rest of the racing was witnessed in comfort. The attendance was again large, and speculation brisker than the first day, as £2 845 was put through, making £5,498 for the two days—the best on record for the Club. The starting was again splendid, the start for the Grandstand Handicap being warmly applauded from the Stand. Mr. Powell acknowledged the compliment by doffing his hat in the orthodox manner. Mr. Evtitt's handicaps produced some close finishes, as close as one could wish to have them.

The excitement began with the Hack Hurdles, for which four started. Baccarat went to the front at once, with Recruit as his nearest attendant, Flukem next and The Masher last. Baccarat led all the way, and won with a bit to spare from Flukem, who came with a fast run that was timed too late. Recruit finished third. The winner paid his backers £5 7s. Time, 3min. 5 1-5th secs.

For the Grandstand Handicap six contested, the winner being Weka, who won by a length from Heather Bell; Torpedo a good third.