

OUR TARANAKI LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW PLYMOUTH, May 19.
THE report that R. McRae, of Manaia, intends to take Whalebone over to Australia at the end of the winter season here is correct. I suppose that he will ask Percy Johnston to accompany him as rider. He would act wisely if he did, for Percy is a cool-headed and clever rider, and moreover a decent and unassuming young chap. There has been a bit of discussion here over the big Hurdles and Steeplechase at the Auckland Winter Meeting. Glenelg is all the talk, but he will have to perform in better company than he has done so far before I'll stand him. My fancy at the weights at present are Lonely for the Hurdles, and Chance for the Steeplechase. Acceptance day will throw more light as to the probable results.

The Taranaki Jockey Club have paid interest up to date to the holders of their debentures. It will be remembered that the Club raised several hundreds in £10 debentures to effect improvements about three years ago. I think £700 was the amount. The interest paid the other day was £2 per debenture, representing the interest from the time of issue up to date. Now that the Club have turned Tattenham Corner I trust that they will flourish like the *pinus insignis* does in Taranaki.

[BY WIRE.]

May 24.

The Bell Block races came off to-day. The weather was fair. £900 odd was put through the machine. The following are the results:

Steeplechase: Flukem, 1; Moonlight, 2; Atlantic, 3. Dividend, £1 15s.

Pony Race: Dairy, 1; Poppy, 2; Flymen, 3. Dividend, £2 2s.

Bell Block Cup: Sirius, 1; Ionic, 2; Armoury, 3. Dividend, £3 5s.

Farmers' Plate: Twilight, 1; Darebin, 2. Dividend, £13 5s.

Handicap Trot: Charlie, 1; Sailor Boy, 2. Dividend, £2 6s.

Flying Stakes: Mararoa, ; Shela, 2; Armoury, 2. Dividend, £7 16s.

Hurry Scurry: Marquis, 1; Tweedleappin, 2; Wizard, 3. Dividend, £1 18s.

The Waitara pony Cigarette has been sold at a high figure.

OUR WANGANUI LETTER.

[BY WIRE.]

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

WANGANUI, May 24.

THE Wanganui Jockey Club held their usual annual Steeplechase Meeting to-day. The weather was not as good as could be desired, but the racing itself was first-class, good fields contesting most of the events. The starter's flag was wielded by E. J. Chapman, who was very successful during the day with his starting.

The first race on the programme was the Flying Stakes, the result being as follows:—Torpedo, McCormick, 1; Tulloch, Hodson, 2; Hakimana, Donovan, 3. Time, 1min 20sec. Dividend, £2 8s.

The Wanganui Steeplechase brought a field of ten to the post, Couranto being made a warm favourite, and he justified the confidence reposed in him, by winning a fast run race by two lengths, the placed horses being as follows: Couranto, Redmond, 1; Lyndoorra, Pell, 2; Flintstone, Humphries, 3. Time, 6min 46sec. Dividend, £3 6s.

Hunters' Steeplechase: The Master, Mr. T. Scott, 1; Doctor, Mr. Hathaway, 2; Warlock, Mr. Harrison, 3. Time, 4min 39 2-5th secs. Dividend, £4 18s.

Winter Cats: St. Malo, Johnstone, 1; Tulloch, Hodson, 2; Stranger, Reed, 3. Time, 2min 45sec. Dividend, £3 1s.

Trial Steeplechase: Empire, Pell, 1; Flintstone, Humphries, 2; Corsair, Seccombe, 3. Time, 4min 28 4-5th sec. Dividend, £39 7s.

Hack Flat: O'Rorke (Price) and Natatorial (McKeague) dead heat; Daisy Clipper, 3. Time, 2min 6 4-5 sec. Dividends—O'Rorke, £5 3s; Natatorial, £12 11s.

Final Steeplechase: Whalebone, 1; Warlock, 2; The Dunce, 3. Time, 3min 28 4-5th secs. Dividend, £3 9s.

Commotion has been sold to Mr. S. H. Gollan, of Napier, for the sum of £250.

OUR WELLINGTON LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

[BY WIRE.]

WELLINGTON, May 25.

F. MARTIN's case came before the Resident Magistrate this morning. The Magistrate decided there was illegal betting, and fined the defendant £20 and costs. The other cases were postponed again to Saturday.

The Wellington Racing Club have increased the stakes in the Wellington Steeplechase to £225 and the Trial Steeples from £60 to £70.

At the Wellington Trotting Club's meeting yesterday there was a good attendance, about 1,000 being present.

The local mare Nellie, formerly in Gooseman's hands at Hawke's Bay, won the Harness and Trotting Club's Handicaps in good style, the heavy going suiting her.

Edward's stable was out of luck. Sandgate was second in the Harness and Rover third in the big money, but won the Consolation. Rarus was scratched.

A Christchurch trotter, The Spider, entered as the property of a milkman at Petone, won the Maiden, and only lost the Handicap by three lengths, after the handicappers taking off 15 seconds from his start.

At Horowhenua, Tangikai, by Premier—Portrait, won the Stewards' Handicap and Cup, and Aurora, by Diomedes, the Hurdles.

TARANAKI FOOTBALL NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW PLYMOUTH, May 19.

THE series of games for the Cup were started on Saturday last. The Eltham team journeyed to Waitara to play the Clifton men. The game was a sorry one, the Cliftonites simply smothering their opponents to the tune of 35 points to nil! The Eltham men at the start of the season gave it out that they were only frightened of one team, and that was the Manganui (Stratford), but judging by last Saturday's result they will have to be afraid of all the the teams competing for the trophy. My rural friends should bear in mind that "Brag is a good dog, but Holdfast is a better one." The same day an interesting match was played at Hawera, when the local club met Waimate. After a tough tussle the match resulted in a draw, each side scoring a try. The Hawera and Waimate clubs promise to have a cut in for the trophy this year. To-day (Thursday) the Manganui team played the Star (New Plymouth) on the racecourse here. The weather was wretched, a northerly gale with heavy and incessant rain prevailing all the time. Both clubs put their strongest teams in the field, but the Manganui were too heavy and strong for their opponents. Nevertheless the Stars played a plucky and determined game, and the numerous spectators were treated to a good exhibition of football. In the first spell C. Bayly scored a try for the Manganuis, which R. Lusk, owing to the difficult angle was unable to convert. In the second spell, and against the wind, which was blowing diagonally across the ground, A. Bayly scored a try, which R. Lusk converted into a goal. The Manganuis thus won by 7 points (5 for goal from try and 2 for try) to nil. For the visitors Lusk, A. Bayly, and C. Bayly, among the backs played best, and McKenzie (of Auckland fame) and Davis were the "daddies" among the forwards. For the Star men "Dinky" Kivell, S. Humphries, A. Humphries, and Kingsley played well in the back division; and Oxenham, A. Elliot, J. Smith, and C. Ryan among the forwards. Messrs. R. Cameron and W. Bayly made efficient line umpires. Mr. A. Hempton was referee, but he appeared to be inexperienced in carrying out his duties, and seemed to devote more attention to the line umpires' work than his own. In matches such as this one it is imperative that a person conversant with the rules and game, and decided in his decisions, should act in the capacity of referee, and I hope that my suggestion will be acted on in all future games this season. The "barracking" was complained of by a few thin-skinned individuals, but to my observation their complaints were groundless, as the partisan spirit was exceedingly mild. One individual was heard to remark, in the words of the inimitable Edmund Burke, that barracking "made the blood boil in his veins."

What a poetical and emotional creature he must be! Hardly suited for a spectator at an inter-club match, I should imagine. I consider that the game was played in a friendly spirit right through, both as regards players and spectators. It is the ill-timed remarks of such men as the one I have mentioned that cause dissatisfaction among players.

SPORTING NOTES.

[BY NEW CHUM.]

THE acceptances for the two events—Hurdles and Steeplechase—to be run at the A.R.C. Winter Meeting are now to hand. Looking at the list they speak well for Mr. Evett's adjustment of the weights. In the Hurdle Race, 2 miles, Couranto, 12.0, heads the list, and is just about in his proper place when compared with the lower division. Somnambulist, 11.12, reads well, and if not saved for the Steeplechase must have a large say. Waterbury, 11.5, can. I should say, be passed over as too heavily weighted. Theorem, 10.8, has been a long time idle now, and may have been "bottled up" for this event. His weight gives him a great chance of distinguishing himself, as he is a horse possessed of a fair turn of speed. Hune, 10.7, has received quite her desserts compared with the top weights. I am afraid several lower down the list will prove "too good enough" for her. Commotion, 10.6, reads very well, and will, I think, give a good account of himself after his noteworthy performances at Egmont the other day. He won the Egmont Hurdle Race, carrying 10.9, and ran second in the Steeplechase with 10.6 on his back, which latter event was won by the much-rested Shillelagh, who carried the same weight. Lonely, 10.6, has got a "fair throw in" at that weight, considering the hollow manner in which he disposed of his field in the Boxing Day Hurdles at the last A.R.C. Summer Meeting. To my mind Lonely is the "blot" of the handicap in the 10.0 and upwards division. Shillelagh, 10.5, cannot grumble about his impost, but I imagine he is more likely to "sail for" the 400 sovs. instead. Fabulous, 9.9, a new aspirant to the game, has been called upon to give weight away to performed horses, such as Glenelg and Tupara, but as Fishmonger, who was weighted at 11.4, has been withdrawn from this event, it is quite evident that this handsome son of Leolinus must be taken into consideration when looking for the winner. Rewarewa, 9.8, viewed in the light of her maiden essay at the last meeting of the A.R.C., when she ran second to Hune in the Hurdle Race, must have more than an outside show. Tupara, 9.8, might have been awarded a few pounds more. Glenelg, 9.5, is "blot No. 2" of the handicap, as the manner in which he has acquitted himself at meetings held on the coast stamps him as "dangerous as dynamite." My opinion at present is that he will win, and could do so almost as certainly with another stone up. Belmont, 9.5, is another new hand at the "illegitimate." Although he won at Takapuna, I cannot fancy his chance amongst such company as we have on this occasion. Flukem, 9.4, Warrior, 9.3, Try Fluke, 9.2, and Papakura, 9.0, are weighted lightly enough in all conscience, but whether they are able to "live" amongst the "cracks" is extremely doubtful. Below these are a number of horses that have "done a little" more or less at the game in country and suburban meetings, and of these Never Miss perhaps is the safest to trust. In looking over the list, and picking out half-a-dozen of the best that appear on paper, I must give Couranto, 12.0, Somnambulist, 11.10, Theorem, 10.8, Lonely, 10.6, Commotion, 10.6, and Glenelg, 9.5. Of the "small fry" and non-performed, Fabulous, 9.9, Tupara, 9.8, and Never Miss, 9.0, are most to be depended on. To reduce the above lot I would place them thus—Glenelg, Lonely, and Couranto.

Another splendid field "graces the scene" in the Steeplechase, for which no less than 20 have declared satisfied—only three having dropped out. Both this and the Hurdles are so open that the "penciling brethren" ought to have a first-class innings. In fact there is nothing to prevent many of them getting a "skinner" when one considers the uncertainty of the weather, the contentment of owners with their weights, and all and sundry reasons, the result is left very open indeed. So far as the