

It appears that the owners of the Island Bay estate want altogether too much for a lease of the course raced on the other day. It was also decided to hold the next meeting some time in the spring.

Mr. Gully, the Crown prosecutor, has taken the initial step in appealing against the acquittal of Yuille and Nathan on the illegal betting charges, and J. H. Pollock's case has been adjourned *sine die*, and I presume will be held in suspense until the appeal is decided.

Mr. Stevens, the owner of Master, which won the Hunter's Steeplechase at Wanganui, took the first prize for 15-stone hacks at the last Agricultural Show held at the Hutt.

The United Hunt Club have raised the stakes to £300, and their steeplechase meeting is likely to be very successful, and it will also operate to bring horses here for the Wellington R.C. Steeplechase Meeting.

The stewards of the Akura Maori Racing Club are very indignant over the Maori Hack Race. At a meeting on Friday it was ascertained that the race, which was for Maori horses only, was won by a horse called "Deeming," belonging to a Lower Valley Settler, which had won a race at Marlborough under the name of "The Whiffier." This horse received the stakes and dividend of £7 14s. The stewards decided to disqualify the horse for life, and to ask the Metropolitan Club to also punish the owner.

OUR NAPIER LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

May 28th.

It was generally expected here that the Wanganui Steeplechase would come to this district, and although Couranto had a large circle of admirers Waterbury was not without his friends. However, he proved a grievous disappointment, and couldn't jump to save his life, let alone his backers' money. Couranto blundered at one of the obstacles, but his pace brought him home. There can be no gainsaying the fact that the son of Patriarch—Quickstep, is a daisy, and as this was his first appearance over big country his win is all the more meritorious. Whether he can win in Auckland or not is questionable, but we have people here who swear by him, and I think he undoubtedly has a big show. His penalty won't stop him that's a certainty. If he gets over the Auckland course he is good enough for anything. He is worth a nice little sum now, and will no doubt be nibbled at for Australia, where he would make them all sit up. Some time ago he was priced for Australia, and the figure was £400, but he has gone up in value since then. The owner of Whalebone at that time wanted £400 for his horse, and perhaps he will ask a little more now.

The weights for the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's Steeplechase Meeting are due on the 8th of June. We should have a splendid meeting here this year.

The two-year old colt Rangiatea, by Somnus—Wairareka (full brother to Wairua), has been sold to a patron of A. Ellingham's stable for £250, by Messrs. Baker and Co., who own Somnus and Lochnagar and other horses. He is a good colt, and is entered for most of the classic races in the colony next season. At the Town and Suburban races the other day his rider's stirrup broke in the Queen's Birthday Handicap, and in the Flying Stakes he came up like a shot out of a gun at the finish, and was just beaten by half a head by Kathleen, Kimberley's half-sister. The youngster was paying about £25 dividend. Messrs. Baker and Co. have a yearling gelding out of the same sire and dam as Rangiatea, and as they do not intend to pursue racing he is for sale, as also are two mares by Somnus out of Deception.

Maid of Lorne would have paid over £8 dividend had she won the handicap at Tara-dale, and this among hacks too.

Taurakaitai has not been working lately, having ricked his shoulder.

[BY WIRE.]

NAPIER, May 31.

The football matches played the Recreation Ground on Saturday resulted in Napier winning the double of first and second fifteen matches against the Pirates, who have been the crack team here for years. Napier I. beat Pirates I. by six points to five, while Napier II. beat Pirates II. by 20 to 12.

D. Donovan, jockey, who has ridden in Capt. Russell's colours for a number of years, has left his stable to-day and gone into Andy Robertson's establishment.

Couranto is a great favourite for the Great Northern Steeplechase, and I fancy the only horse that will trouble him will be Fishmonger. Couranto is extremely fast, but it is considered questionable by some as to his ability to get over the Auckland country. I don't think he can win the Hurdles unless it is made a slow run race, for he has a lot of weight to carry.

Somnambulist is bound to start in both Hurdles and Steeple, although he is Couranto's stable-companion.

Commotion carries the colours of Mr. Gollan, who, by the way, has gone on a visit to Rangan-tikei.

OUR TARANAKI LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

[BY WIRE.]

NEW PLYMOUTH, May 30.

The jumpers Couranto, Somnambulist and Commotion and the flat racer Stranger arrived here to-night and will be shipped North to-morrow night. Glenelg will not be taken up, as he is bad. The local horses Flukem, Durus and Skutcher will also be shipped to-morrow night.

May 31.

Flukem will not be taken North on account of a knock he received in the Bell Block Steeples. Moonlight will go North for the Selling Steeples.

There are over 130 nominations for the Egmont Hack Sires' Produce Stakes. Gipsy King is represented by 30, Sou'wester 15, Foulshot 12, Flintlock 10, Puriri 10, Cap-a-pie 9, Natator, Somnus and Tim Whiffler 5 each, The Australian 4, and the rest under the last number.

SPORTING NOTES.

[BY NEW CHUM.]

THE crucial question of the hour is, "What is the winning double for Saturday and Monday next?" Since writing my review for last week's issue of the candidates in the Hurdles and Steeplechase some more facts have been brought before our notice, and we have an extra line or two to theorise upon. For the Hurdles I said Couranto, 12.0, was just in his proper place. Since then he has done a good performance by winning the Wanganui Steeplechase, which has had the effect of hardening him in the market for our local events. I placed the three in order of merit for this event as follows: Glenelg, Lonely and Couranto. Since then the first named has met with an accident, and is now "out of it." Fabulous, 9.9, is training on well, and as his "foot" is rather beyond the majority engaged, if he negotiate the "sticks" all right it seems almost a certainty he must at least reach into a place. Tupara's party are credited with trying the "funny business"—reported lame, broken down, gone amiss, &c.—but it did not work evidently, as he is among the "short odds" division. Against Couranto & Co. I cannot stand him. Belmont won at Takapuna, but I imagine he will find this company "very sultry" compared with the push at Takapuna. The rest of the field I noticed in last week's notes, and I fail to see any reason for altering my then expressed opinions. Right here, then, I might say that I expect the result on Saturday to read:—

Couranto or Lonely	1
Fabulous	2
Commotion	3

The Steeplechase comes up for settlement on Monday next, the 6th inst. As in the Hurdle Race, so in this item my previous notes hold good throughout, or nearly so. As Shillelagh has gone astray, Commotion can take his place, which I deprived him of on account of his running at Wanganui. I am still at a loss to gauge Ingarangi's chance, but am inclined to give him a place. Having selected Couranto for the Hurdles causes me to hold somewhat aloof from him in this. Besides he has won a steeplechase, and thereby incurred a penalty. Hopeful Kate ran second in the Steeplechase at Takapuna and fenced up to her best form, but since then she has been acquitting herself very badly in her schooling at Ellerslie—re-

fusing repeatedly—so in face of the latter fact I am reluctantly compelled to pass her over. Whalebone, it is reported, will be a non-starter. Onslow, 9.7, ran well for part of the journey at Takapuna. He there went on fast and not on slow during the early part of the race. He is an awkward "outsider," and might "toll it over." However, without more ado I shall just set them down in the way I believe they will finish, and that is—

Somnambulist or Couranto ..	1
Commotion	2
Ingarangi	3

and if anything is calculated to miscalculate my calculations it might be Fishmonger or Chance. The latter is a very much improved horse.

In the Winter Welter Handicap Leorina—that old chopping block—heads the poll with 12st 4lb. At this she is in about her right place, but should not give so much weight to Fiesole, 11st 2lb, who should have a great say in the race at that weight. Of Yattaghan and Ida at 10st 9lb each I prefer the former at the weights. Tulloch at 10st 7lb cannot have a show with the previous two. St. Michael 10st 6lb has more than an outside chance. Vieux Rose 10st 4lb might have a say as it is only a mile. Brigade 10st 3lb, on her Helensville running holds rather a mortgage over the event. Stamford 10st 2lb is out of it at that weight. Of the 10st lot I fancy Stranger. At the time of writing no acceptances are to hand, but I shall select five in order of preference, viz.:—Brigade, Stranger, Fiesole, Yattaghan, and Leorina.

For the Maiden Steeplechase I like CHANCE, and for the Selling TIM or MOONLIGHT are perhaps the best to trust.

AUCKLAND METROPOLITAN PLUMPTON COURSING CLUB.

A WELL-ATTENDED meeting of those interested in coursing was held at the British Hotel on Tuesday evening, F. Lawry, Esq., M.H.R., presiding. The Chairman, in opening the meeting, alluded in touching terms to the death of the late secretary (Mr. W. Wallace), and expressed regret for the unfortunate position of his wife and family. He was pleased to hear that Mr. H. H. Hayr and other gentlemen were busy collecting subscriptions for the bereaved family.

The following letter was received from the secretary of the Auckland Racing Club:—To. W. A. Fenton, Esq., chairman of Plumpton Coursing Club. Dear Sir,—Your application to form a Plumpton coursing ground at Ellerslie has been laid before my committee, who are willing to allow you the use of their property upon the terms you stated you were willing to give, namely, that the A.R.C. committee do receive all revenues accruing from the gates, booths, and stands. They will not spend any money themselves in fixing up the ground for coursing, but will at all times assist you in carrying out the sport. The right to occupy the ground will be by lease for a term of seven years.

Mr. McEwin moved, and Mr. W. Adams seconded, that the terms offered be accepted.

In reply to Mr. Fisher as to what revenue the Plumpton Club would receive from the A.R.C., Mr. Percival said the terms were what the delegates offered. The Plumpton Club would have membership, entries, cards, and other pickings. There was no rent to pay, and the A.R.C. caretaker would assist in protecting the hares, and the club would give every assistance towards making the Plumpton a success.

Mr. W. A. Fenton also spoke as to the terms offered by the A.R.C., stating that if the A.R.C. made any profit they would give added money to the prizes.

The routine business of the formation of the club then proceeded. It was agreed that the name of the club should be the "Auckland Metropolitan Plumpton Coursing Club," and that it be conducted under the National Coursing Club rules. Messrs. J. O. Evitt, J. Beehan, J. Wakefield, T. Macready, J. W. Russell, W. A. Fenton, and T. McEwin were appointed a committee with power to add to their number. The election of a president was left over, as the promoters were anxious that the Hon. E. Mitchelson should be their first president, and as he was absent from town no reply had been received from him. Messrs. W. F. Buckland, M.H.R., and W. S. Lyell were elected vice-presidents; Mr. James Dickey, treasurer; Mr. A. Coates, secretary; Mr. A. F. Whitaker, solicitor; the Auckland branch of the National Bank of New Zealand, bankers for the club. A subscription list was opened, on the understanding that a guinea constituted members' subscription for the year, and all above that amount was to be considered a special donation towards starting the club. £70 was subscribed in the room.

Mr. T. McEwin moved that all former resolutions in reference to having the Plumpton in Avondale be now made to apply to Ellerslie.

Mr. McKee considered the motion was out of order, as the Avondale Plumpton Club was still in existence, and this was an entirely separate club.

Mr. Beehan seconded the motion, and the chairman ruled that it was in order.

Mr. Foley said he could not see how this meeting could direct how the money already collected for a Plumpton at Avondale should be spent. This was not a continuation of the meeting which formed the Auckland