

would give the information readily. Mr. Patterson's estimate of the debit was erroneous. The debit only reached a little over £3000. The following argument then ensued:—

Mr. Patterson: Anything over £20 should be detailed. The members should have this information; they are entitled to it. Why don't you set out a balance-sheet that we can all understand?

The Chairman: The balance-sheet has always been prepared in this way.

Mr. Patterson: Yes; and ten years ago I asked for details, and was then referred to the books. (Laughter.)

Mr. J. B. Renison thought the chairman in referring Mr. Patterson to the books of the club had given a proper answer. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Walter Madden, as one of the committee, rose to explain matters in connection with the balance-sheet. Every item had been before the committee, and if they had no confidence in the committee let them throw them out.

Mr. Patterson: We ought to have all items of expenditure over £20 enumerated. Then we would be able to judge whether we have sufficient confidence in the committee.

Mr. Madden: If we set out all the items of expenditure in connection with the meetings, why the balance-sheet would be as long as the Old Testament. Not a member would read it then.

A Vice (from the back of the hall): Oh, we all read the Old Testament. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Learmonth thought all items over £50 ought to be enumerated in the balance-sheet. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Byron Moore read a statement of accounts, showing the disbursement on the Cup and New Year's meetings.

Mr. Patterson: If you had given us those details in the balance-sheet it would have been much more satisfactory. That is the way balance-sheets should be prepared. (Hear, hear.)

The motion for the adoption of the balance sheet was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously. And in this connection, as showing what large sums are and have been disbursed by the Victoria Racing Club, we may quote the following comparative statement, showing the increase in added money, since 1886:—Receipts: 1886-87, £55,268, added money £19,300; 1887-88, £56,681, added money £24,200; 1888-89, £75,289, added money £29,850; 1889-90, £76,200, added money £37,000; 1890-91, £79,014, added money £44,100; 1891-92, £71,566, added money £44,800. Truly "Marvellous Melbourne" has a marvellous racing institution in the V.R.C.

In previous issues in dealing with the vexed totalisator question we have pointed out that there was no unanimity among the Metropolitan Clubs in the matter of the commission charged to the public on investments, some clubs deducting the 1½ per cent. Government tax from their receipts, and others adding it on to the 10 per cent. commission allowed by law, and thus making the gentle public pay 11½ per cent. for the privilege of investing on the totalisator. The Canterbury Jockey Club's committee, although they have erred in the past by charging 11½ per cent., are now to be congratulated on taking the initiative move in the direction of bringing about uniformity in the matter, for they have decided to give notice of motion at the next Racing Conference to alter Rule 13 of the Totalisator Rules so as to read that 10 per cent. commission, less the amount of the State tax shall be charged on all money invested. This is as it should be, and we hope the other Metropolitan Clubs will agree to the C.J.C.'s proposal.

In our issue of a fortnight back our Napier correspondent was the first to furnish the New Zealand sporting world with the intelligence that Dreadnought had been bought by the Hon. J. D. Ormond, of Napier, for 1500 gs. Thus one of the biggest studs of New Zealand will receive an accession of fresh blood—one that cannot fail to have a most beneficial influence on breeding throughout the Colony. Bar Abercorn and First Chester, Dreadnought is the first son of Chester that has been put to stud duties, and as he was indubitably a great racehorse it is reasonable to suppose that he will acquire himself with credit at the stud. Chester has proved himself one of the greatest sires Australia ever produced. His full brother St. George is now in the Middle Park Stud, Christchurch, and though he has not been used very extensively there (Apremont being chief lord of the harem) he has nevertheless left some fair average performers. Trafalgar, the dam of Dreadnought, was bought in England by the late Hon. J. White, and is by Blair Athol (winner of the Derby and Leger) out of Mosquito, a full sister to Musket. Chester crossed on such a close relative to Musket with a double strain of Stockwell thrown in through Blair Athol and through Chester's dam Lady Chester (who is a daughter of the "Emperor of Stallions") is a pedigree that at once arrests the eye of a student of breeding and causes him to study it deeply. Dreadnought was foaled in 1886, and

his first appearance under silk was made as a two year-old at the V.R.C. Autumn Meeting, when he ran third in the Nursery Handicap, won by Richelieu, and at the A.J.C. Autumn Meeting in the following month he won the Maiden Stakes, of one mile and a quarter, with 7st up, beating a field offive. As a three-year-old he first came out at the A.J.C. Spring, where with 7st 12lb he was second to Novice—to whom he was conceding 20lb—in the Epsom Handicap, one mile, and with 7st 5lb up, he annexed the Wycombe Stakes, of one mile and three-quarters. At the Victorian Amateur Turf Club's Spring Meeting he won the Caulfield Stakes, one mile and a furlong, carrying 7st 11lb, and beating some first-class cattle, the great Carbine being second, and Bravo and Dunkeld a dead heat for third place. He followed this up by winning the V.R.C. Derby and Foal Stakes and running second to Carbine in the Flying Stakes, 7 furlongs. At the V.R.C. Autumn he had only his stable companion Singapore to beat in the Leger, and with 8st 6lb—a gooily weight for a three-year-old in such a long-distance handicap—he won the Australian Cup, two miles and a quarter, Melos with 9st 2lb and Sir William, with 7st 11lb, being second and third respectively, and having a large field behind them. In this race Dreadnought out the Colonial record for the distance, for he ran it in 3min 59½sec. He had to put up with second place to Melos in the Champion Stakes, and then journeying on to Randwick he ran a dead heat for second place with Melos in the Autumn Stakes, w.f.a., one mile and a half, won by Carbine; occupied a similar position in the weight-for-age Cumberland Stakes, 2 miles, won by Carbine; won the A.J.C. Leger, w.f.a., 3 miles, won by Carbine. He has never run since, and it is safe to say that on the majority of the occasions when he sported silk he was not thoroughly wound up, which only goes to show further what a great racehorse he must have been. When the Hon. J. White's horses were sold Lord Kesteven was the highest bidder for Dreadnought at 2200 gs., but Mr. W. T. Jones, the owner of Bravo, made him an offer of 500 gs. advance, and secured him thereat. But Dreadnought never recouped Mr. Jones a penny of his big outlay, for he could never be brought to the post. A young horse with his credentials of sterling performances and good breeding is, to our mind, not dear at 1500 gs., and Mr. Ormond is entitled to the thanks of all true sportsmen for having been the main instrument in securing such a horse for New Zealand. By the time these lines are in the hands of our readers Dreadnought will have reached his new home, where, we hope, many prosperous years of stud life await him.

Turf Topics.

[BY "SIR LAUNCELOT."]]

Mr. Stead's two-year-old filly by St. George out of Sir Modred's half-sister Rave was named *Ich Dien*.

The Hon. G. McLean's two-year-old colt by Gorton—Mountain Lily, has been christened *Errington*.

Mr. H. Redwood, the "Father of the New Zealand Turf," was among the visitors to the C.J.C. Grand National Meeting.

There are in all 51 acceptors for the New Zealand Cup. Mr. W. Douglas' three-year-old filly Ua, who has 6.7, was omitted from the list telegraphed up here.

James Hayes maintained the lead in the list of winning jockeys for Victoria until July 30th, when the last day's racing of the season took place. For the 12 months he gained no less than 73 victories, finished second on 49 occasions, and 50 thirds, an average which is considerably in advance of any other jockey. His nearest opponent is A. Griffiths, who had the misfortune to be suspended for some time during the season, or he would undoubtedly have been very close to Hayes. A. Griffiths left Melbourne the other day on a trip through New Zealand. Griffiths also rode 36 seconds and 17 thirds. Since P. McGowan's services were called upon by the St. Albans' stable he has been very successful, and wound up the season with 30 wins to his credit, 21 seconds and 15 thirds, or in all 66 times placed. C. Lewis has also gained the same number of winning brackets, and had he not met with a serious accident at Randwick during the autumn meeting, would have added many more wins to his name. V. Fountain has gained 26 wins out of a possible 154, and also claims 19 seconds and the same number of thirds. Barbour, who only rides in jumping events, steered 24 winners. Barbour has been 71 times placed, 22 of which were seconds and 25 thirds. Notwithstanding Cusdin's dismissal from Mr. W. R. Wilson's stable, he has been well to the fore on many occasions since that time, his record showing 23 successes. He only rode 11 seconds and 10 thirds. R. Howie, H. Underwood, and G. Robson have each gained 21 victories, whilst Keating and Myers won 19 events. This is not a bad record for some old New Zealand boys.

The Duke of Westminster has decided to establish a new stud farm, near Churton, a village about five miles from Eaton Hall. The farm is to cover seventy acres, and the plans for the necessary buildings have been drawn out and approved. This farm will be a supplementary establishment to the original Eaton Stud Farm, where Bend Or, Ormonde, and Orme were foaled. By the way, I notice in the last files of the London *Sportsman* to hand, that the following stallions are standing at Eaton Hall this season:—Bend Or, at 200gs. a mare (subscription full); Ormonde's brother Arklow, at 100gs. for fifteen approved foaling mares, in addition to his owner's; Blue Green by Cereuleus—Angelica at 100gs. for 10 approved mares, in addition to his owner's; and Pepper and Salt, by The Rake—Oxford Mixture at 10gs.

In the House of Commons on the evening before the day on which the Derby was run, Major Rasch moved the adjournment of the House over Derby Day, and his motion was seconded by Captain Grice Hutcheson. Sir Wilfred Lawson, however, opposed the motion on the ground that previous to 1847 the House did not adjourn for the Derby Day, and, therefore, it was not a very ancient custom. He further stated that during the present session the House had passed two Acts against gambling—viz., the Infants' Betting Act and the Gaming Act—and if the adjournment was decided upon it would be hypocritical on the part of the members. After speeches from Lord Elcho, who seconded the amendment, and Mr. Gedde, who spoke of the bad example that would certainly be set to the community, the House divided, with the result that the motion was lost by fourteen votes.

The annual meeting of the members of the Onslow Trotting Club which was to be held at the Edinburgh Castle Hotel on Friday last has been postponed till to-morrow.

At Sandown Park (Melbourne) on July 30th, Mikado II., 10.3, and Kapo, 9st, were a couple of old New Zealanders that were unplaced in the Hurdle Handicap of 70 sovs., one mile and five furlongs, won by Linwood, 9.13. Linwood is a five-year-old of real thoroughbred breeding, for he is by Progress (son of Angler and Coquette, and runner-up to Grand Flaneur in the V.R.C. Derby and Melbourne Cup, and winner of the Sydney Gold Cup and other big races as a three-year-old) out of Irma, by Irish King—Cantatrice (imp.), by Laneret. In the July Handicap of 50 sovs., five furlongs and a half, run at the same meeting, Ilium, who was recently sent from Christchurch, made her first appearance in Australia with the colours up. She carried 7.11, and was ridden by the ex-New Zealand boy Leeson, but she was unplaced behind Yarmon 7.12. Yarmon is a five-year-old gelding, belonging to Mr. J. Wilson, junr., and is by St. Albans (imp.) out of Duenna, who is a half-sister to Cardigan, being by Lecturer out of the imported Newcastle mare Signora. Waiter, 11.0, ridden by Underwood, and Whiteman, 10.12, ridden by Cameron, were both unplaced behind Fatback, 11.0, in the Open Steeplechase of 80 sovs., two miles and a half. Both Underwood and Cameron are New Zealand horsemen, and Waiter and Whiteman were both bred in this colony. Old Rewi ran last in a field of four in the Selling Race, five furlongs, and Ilium, 7.4, again failed in getting a situation in the Sandown Park Handicap, one mile, in which Yarmon easily brought off the second leg of a double.

Mr. D. O'Brien's cast-off Survivor ran unplaced with 7.9 in the Two-year-old Race, four furlongs and a half, run at Moonee Valley (Melbourne) on the 27th ult. The Gorton—Indolence gelding Dornmeur occupied a similar position with a stone less in the Fairfield Handicap, 5 furlongs and a quarter, which went to Mulligan (8.4). Waiter, 10.13, ridden by Underwood, failed to get "a drum" in the Steeplechase, 2 miles.

Messrs. S. Allen and J. Wall, two well-known Melbourne bookmakers, recently visited England and America, and Mr. Wall on returning to Victoria was interviewed by a representative of the Melbourne *Sporting Standard* as to his impressions of American racing. He said:—"To have the privilege of betting on the leading courses it is necessary to be in attendance on the official at a certain time, when he puts all applying into a list, and they draw for places in the betting boxes. A sum of 100 dol. a day has also to be paid for each of five days for the week, and if an extra day is run the 100 dol. is increased to 112 dol. for that day. Bookmakers do not stand with cash bags, as on Australian courses. They are provided with boxes, constructed so as to accommodate the layer and three or four clerks who include ticket-writer, sheet-writer, cashier, etc. The layer is a man acting as the paid agent of a company, and gets 15 dol. a day for the work done, while each of the clerks gets 10 dol. a day. At the end of the box is a board on which are the names of the horses and the odds being laid. The American style did not at all suit me, and so I struck an innovation by starting with open satchel in the Australian way. The American system of laying and paying differs considerably from the Australian. All betting on a race ceases a quarter of an hour before that race; and during that quarter they proceed to bet on the succeeding race. At the conclusion of a race a club official calls out the winning names and numbers, 1, 2, 3, and orders the pay off. The Yanks in betting end off with the figure five or some figures divisible by it. This gives the quotations a different ring to the Anglo-Australian style, which ends off with an even number." In reply to interrogations of his interviewer as to the starting system in vogue in America, Mr. Wall said:—"They give all flying starts. The starter stands on a chair in line with the starting post, whilst another official—the assistant starter you might call him—stands a few yards ahead with the flag. The starter orders the boys behind the line and to range up in regular fashion at a canter. If they are in close company when they arrive at the mark, the word "go" is given and the flag drops, and off they go. If they are not well together he orders them back, and so on till they come properly up. As a rule very little time is lost at the post. The longest delay I observed was one of a quarter of an hour, and that was caused by a couple of specially fractious two-year-olds. The tracks they race on are mostly made tracks—not Nature's grass clad courses such as Flemington and other of our Australian arenas. They make fast times on the American tracks; but these result in some measure from the flying starts, no doubt."

Mr. Sam Powell, having made satisfactory arrangements for someone starting instead of him at the Wanganui Jockey Club's May Meeting, will be able to wield the flag at the Dunedin Jockey Club's May gathering.

On the 30th ult. the V.R.C. Derby favourite Autonomy fell head over heels while doing a gallop at Randwick, but he quickly righted himself and was found to have sustained no injury.

The light-weight, F. Kingan, who went to Melbourne to ride the gelding Cocksfoot in his engagements, returned to Riccarton last week. "Hotspur," who interviewed him, says "that Kingan saw most of the New Zealand jockeys who now have their home in Victoria. Cusdin is the most flourishing of the lot; he gets any amount of riding, and is highly thought of by his employers. Thomas has got somewhat lumpy, and cannot go to scale at anything under 8.0; in fact, can only with difficulty ride that weight. He has not been over fortunate of late, and spoke of going to the back blocks for a season. Myers has been doing very little riding of late, and is complaining of the dilatory manner in which riding fees are paid. Wisby's term of disqualification is almost out, and as he has been keeping his hand in with the ponies, he expects to get a fair share of riding when he emerges from retirement. The Victorians have a great set on P. White, who is kept in the background, the only riding he gets being on Mr. Gollan's horses, and as Martin has had bad luck with Tirailleur and his companions, the first jockey of the stable has had no opportunity of distinguishing himself. White is talking of returning to New Zealand. Leeson, who went over with Stratford, had a winning ride on old Rewi a few days after landing. He rode Tom Field in his opening engagement. Stratford's horse was apparently winning easily at three-quarters of a mile, but he went back to his horses in the last two furlongs. Macdonald, who went in charge of Sycophant, is engaged in a Ballarat stable."

The Canterbury Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals made themselves supremely ridiculous by, at a meeting they held a few days before the decision of the C.J.C. Grand National Meeting, giving instructions to their Inspector to proceed to the Grand National Meeting, in order to "detect if any of the horses were unduly punished."

It was not long before W. Duggan, the Sydney trainer, got tired of Mr. Stead's cast-off Moraine. A Sydney paper reports that Duggan has sold the son of Apremont and Miss Flat "profitably," and that he will now be trained at Moorefield, near Sydney.

At a sale held by Messrs. W. C. Yuille and Co. in Melbourne, on the 3rd inst., Tetford's brother Tranter by Musket—Pungawerewere, was sold to Mr. A. McLeod, of Merino Downs, for 310gs. Mr. S. V. Cooke bought Tradition, who in 1888 ran second in the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups, for 220gs.

As a sort of memento of the dual victory of Redleap in the V.R.C. Grand National Hurdle Race and Steeplechase, the Messrs. Miller have presented Redleap's rider, Mr. W. S. Cox, jun., with the well-known steeplechaser Deburg, who is a son of Slanderer (sire of Grisp and brother to Calumny).

The death is announced in Sydney of Mr. J. Silberberg, who owned Woodlands when he was a three-year-old in that famous season when he, Chester, Cap-a-pie, First King, &c., were giants in the land. For some years Mr. Silberberg had been dead out of luck, and a lingering illness ended in a merciful release by death.

At the annual meeting of the members of the Victoria Racing Club, held on the 1st inst., an election was held of four members of committee, which resulted thus:—Hon. D. S. Wallace, 271; Mr. A. Yuille, 253; Mr. M. O'Shannassy, 207; Mr. A. W. Robertson, 191; Mr. W. T. Jones, 172; Hon. W. Pearson, 168; Mr. J. C. Bowden, 148; Mr. C. D. O'Halloran, 118; Mr. S. Gardiner, 40. The first four, Messrs. Wallace, Yuille, O'Shannassy, and Robertson, were declared elected. The retiring members were Messrs. Wallace, Robertson, Pearson, and Gardiner, and it will be seen that the two latter were rejected.

The prize money for the four days' racing at Ascot this year totalled £30,009.

The prize money distributed by the Victoria Amateur Turf Club since its inception totals £128,525. During the year just closed the stakes amounted to £19,450.

The Melbourne *Sporting Standard* of the 2nd instant contains a portrait of P. Nolan, the well-known ex-Auckland cross-country jockey, which, however, does not very much resemble him. In an appended biography our contemporary remarks:—"P. Nolan is a native of New Zealand, having been born at Papakura, just outside the city of Auckland. Nolan served his apprenticeship to Messrs. Williamson and Kean, and early evinced a marked aptitude for the profession which he had decided to adopt. Both on the flat and over sticks Nolan won many races, a detailed account of which would fill a column. The last victories of Nolan, in the land of his birth, were on Don at the Takapuna meeting, when he won both the Hurdle Race and Steeplechase on the one afternoon on the same gelding. Strange to say Nolan's first win in New South Wales was also on the back of the son of Ariel, who defeated Peter Osbeck by a neck at the A.J.C. Spring Meeting of 1889, in the Steeplechase. Suffice it to say that on his deciding to settle down in Sydney he has been eagerly sought after by owners and trainers, and for them has proved very successful, hurdle races on Killarney and steeplechases on Grandwing being his most recent victories, two of them being on one day. At the last V.R.C. Autumn Meeting Nolan steered Satyr in the Second Hurdle Race, and won very easily on the son of Naiad, and on old Marmion he won a V.R.C. Steeplechase. He was, however, unfortunate at the recent V.R.C. Grand National Meeting, as Satyr came down in the Hurdle Race, and Beggar Boy did likewise in the Steeplechase. His bad luck still sticks to him, for he was beaten by a head on Killarney in the Hurdle Race at Sandown Park on Saturday. On the previous week he had a nasty fall off the same gelding. Nolan is a capital horseman, and being a most unassuming young fellow is deservedly popular. May he have better luck in the next Grand National he takes part in."