

horses three years old and upwards, minimum weight to be 10.7, and weights to be declared after the Flying Handicap was run. But this year's Welter Race was a decided blot on an otherwise excellent programme.

Gallagher was right ahead in the list of winning jockeys on the day, for he rode The Dancer in both his victories, and was also up on St. Hippo. D. Morrison scored once on Marquis of Tewkesbury; Hodson was on Eve; Collins on Stepper; and Mr. J. W. Wallace on Morion.

Among the sires represented Sword Dance scored twice with The Dancer. Brigadier—who promises to have a real good season, which he well deserves—showed us in Eve the first two-year-old winner of the season; and St. Leger—another young and not-too-well patronised sire—was represented by a couple of worthy winners in St. Hippo and Marquis of Tewkesbury. Maroro is responsible for the paternity of Stepper, and Captivator for that of Morion.

It only remains to add that the arrangements for the conduct of the racing were admirably carried out under the able guiding hand of the secretary, Mr. Percival. Mr. Kirkwood's decisions as judge were promptly delivered; Mr. Marks, as clerk of the scales, and Mr. T. Brown, as clerk of the course, were in the places they have so often filled of yore, which is equivalent to saying that they left no room for fault finding; and Mr. E. D. Halstead's starting was extremely creditable all through. Mr. Evett's handicapping was slightly below his usual standard, especially as regards the way he dealt with Marquis of Tewkesbury and Stepper in the races they won, but it must be remembered that the commencement of a season is a particularly "rough" time for the handicapper to gauge form, as horses are so liable to improve or deteriorate according as they have wintered. Above all things on Saturday, time was well adhered to, so that when we had to turn our backs on Ellerslie there was ample time for dinner. May the weather be as fine, the attendance larger, but the sport as enjoyable when next time we are called upon to visit the Auckland Racing Club's convincing ground.

At the settling over the meeting the following amounts were paid away to winning owners:—

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| Mr. L. D. Nathan—1st September Handicap | £95 0 |
| Mr. J. Lynch—1st Trial Handicap (£42 15s), 1st Flying Handicap (£47 10s) | 90 5 |
| Mr. J. G. McKellar—1st Steeplechase | 80 15 |
| Mr. C. Archibald—1st Hurdle Race | 57 0 |
| Mr. J. Sutton—1st Juvenile Plate | 57 0 |
| Mr. W. Bobbett—2nd Flying Handicap (£9 10s), 1st Welter Race (£38) | 47 10 |
| Major George—2nd September Handicap | 19 0 |
| Mr. J. McAlister—2nd Steeplechase | 14 15 |
| Mr. G. Wright—2nd Juvenile Plate | 9 10 |
| Mr. J. M. Moore—2nd Welter Race | 9 10 |
| Mr. J. Bland—2nd Hurdle Race | 9 10 |
| Mr. J. Malcolm—3rd Juvenile Plate | 4 15 |
| Mr. A. Morgan—2nd Trial Handicap | 4 15 |
| Total | £498 15 |

Inter-Provincial

[FROM OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

TARANAKI.

September 16.

The thoroughbred stallion Fantastic (Apremont—Fantasy) will stand the season in the south portion of this district. I think it was the intention of Mr. M. Cunningham to race Fantastic this season, but the idea was abandoned, as it was considered that the horse might not stand a winding up on account of one of his pins being liable to a strain. Fantastic is fashionably bred, only four years old, and sound, so that he should have a good season.

The jockey C. Crocker has gone into Mr. Jas. Hooker's employ, and is training Tattler (Python—La Vendetta) for hack racing this season. I also opine that Tattler will be run in hurdles.

The New Zealand Cup candidate, Fraternité, is reported to be going well at Momahaki under Billy Butler's care, and during the last two weeks he has sprung into great favour for the one thousand pound event. It is reckoned that he will strip very fit for the race if he trains on as well as he is doing at present.

I understand that the Waitara Club's programme has been referred back by the Metropolitan Club, to enable it to be amended in accordance with the totalisator motion passed by the recent Metropolitan Conference. The Waitara Club have applied to alter the date of their

meeting from December 8th to December 15th.

The 20-mile radius condition in the totalisator motion just referred to will not work fairly in this district, as only two small clubs will be affected, while six will escape. Why the Conference did not make the motion apply all over a Metropolitan district exceeds my comprehension. I believe, however, that the committee of the Metropolitan here will consider the advisability of making the motion apply to all clubs under their jurisdiction, irrespective of the 20-mile radius. If they do it will only be equitable.

On Saturday last Fantastic was submitted at auction, and passed in at £50. I understand that the reserve was only £100, so that there was a bargain open to a speculator.

The hack Ionic (Dauphin—Ina), who performed so well on this coast last season, is advertised for stud purposes.

There is a man on this coast who has the reputation of knocking his horses about when they don't run first. If such is the case it is a pity that someone does not give him a taste of his own gruel when he is caught at it.

[BY WIRE.]

September 20.

The Taranaki Jockey Club's committee have appointed Mr. J. O. Evett handicapper, and Mr. R. G. Pardy assistant handicapper, and Mr. S. Powell starter. The committee have decided to apply altered Rule 22 to the whole of the Metropolitan district, and not confine its application to the 20 mile radius. This is the only way that the rule could be worded with fairness in this district. The club's programme for Boxing Day will not exceed £300, and for the Anniversary Meeting will not exceed £1000.

WANGANUI

September 17.

All those who know the popular cross-country horseman Harry Fell will be pleased to hear that he is rapidly improving in health, and is now able to take out-door exercise in the ambulance carriage belonging to the Wanganui J.C. Although unable to move his body to a great extent, owing to the injury to his spine, he now has the use of his hands, and looks forward to soon being about again. The doctors agree that Harry's indomitable pluck has had a lot to do with his improvement.

Fraternité is doing splendidly in his work for the New Zealand Cup. He has been receiving some staunch support for that race, and I fancy he will be a hard one to beat when the colours are up. Boulanger is going on all right, and his stable connections are very sanguine about his chance. J. Belcher, his trainer, avers that wherever Fraternité is "Bully's" neck will be in front of him, but I very much doubt so, although "Bully" is not a horse to be despised for the big event.

The stock of Sam Powell's thoroughbred horse Ascot are beginning to exhibit good form at all distances on the turf. The majority of Ascot's get are all big upstanding horses, showing good muscular power. At the late Hunt Club meetings at Marton and Feilding Ben Lomond, a fine big raking bay gelding, by Ascot out of a half-sister to old Loch Lomond, was successful in pulling off three events out of four in which he started. At Marton he made his first attempt over hurdles, and had no difficulty in disposing of his field, and a week later he again romped home in the Hack Hurdles and Welter Handicap at the Feilding meeting. He is possessed of a good turn of foot, and for a green horse at the illegitimate game jumped very well, and with Alex. Cameron's careful supervision should show to greater advantage later on. He belongs to Mr. Baldwin of Turakina (the owner of Gladius), who informs me that if he can get the figure he wants for him, viz., £150, he will sell. Poinsettia, another Ascot, was also successful at the above-mentioned meetings, winning the Flying Handicap at both gatherings.

I very much regret to have to record that Mr. J. Poole, of the firm of Messrs. Hill and Poole, has been very seriously ill for the last two weeks, but is now slowly mending for the better, and I am sure his friends will be glad to see his genial face amongst them once more.

Mr. Jas. Smiley has just had erected in St. Hill street a comfortable stable, comprising four commodious boxes, with a sleeping room attached. The boxes measure 13 x 12, and are fitted with patent windows, that can be opened to any distance at the trainer's requisites, while water and everything needful for a stable

is close handy. Mr. Smiley informs me that he is prepared to let them on a moderate charge, and if he does not succeed he will keep them for the use of horses visiting here at the races, and as they are close handy to the course he will be sure to find occupants for them.

The Wanganui Jockey Club has long had an enviable name for its splendid racecourse, which is hard to beat in any part of New Zealand, and visitors from all parts are always pleased to pay a visit to the race gatherings that take place on that popular track. The Club's secretary, Mr. Freeman R. Jackson, is the right man in the right place, and a better could not be found in the whole of the colonies, and the Club should feel highly honored in possessing a man of his energetic abilities. Before the last Autumn Meeting a great deal of improvements were carried out, amongst them being a miniature lake, which was greatly admired by all who were present. Since the Steeplechase Meeting a lot more additions and alterations have taken place, mainly to the saddling paddock, in which the stalls and boxes have been reversed, the space that used to lie at the back, about five chains square, having been utilised for a paddock, so that the saddling paddock proper will be used only on race days. Five new loose boxes have also been built, besides a fenced-in box for horses to roll in, which is greatly in demand by the trainers. The jockeys' room has had 6ft. added on to it and is also raised higher in the roof, and is now a comfortable room, while also a new Press room, 14 x 12, has been built, and the old one added on to the secretary's room, making it far more comfortable and useful. A large-sized bell has been placed above this room for the purpose of signalling when to saddle, etc., the bell having the following inscription painted on it—"W.J.C. Established 1848." The outside fence, 7ft. high, is now carried right round past the six furlong post, the course at the top end having been widened half a chain. The training tracks now number eight, besides the course proper. No. 1 track is reserved for racehorses three days a week, and they can have a trial on the course proper by payment of £1 for each horse. No. 2 track is solely reserved for a trial course for hacks, of which there are about 30 in work. The other tracks, including a plough and sand track, can be used any time by all who have horses in work, the inner track being three-quarters of a mile round. The whole course is now looking well, and with good nominations on the 20th for the Spring Meeting we may look forward to one of the most successful and enjoyable meetings that the W.J.C. have yet held.

At the committee meeting of the W.J.C., held on Thursday evening, the programmes of the following clubs were passed:—Warrenate, Rangitikei, Ashurst-Pohangina, and Waverley-Waitotara Racing Clubs.

[BY WIRE.]

September 20.

The nominations received to-night for the Wanganui Jockey Club's Spring Meeting total 104 for six events. The principal event of the meeting—the Wanganui Stakes—has twenty-two nominations, the principal outsiders being Kupenga, St. Katherine, Heather Bell, Wyvern, North Atlantic, Spinfeldt and Queen of Trumps. Taken on the whole, I am afraid the Club will not have an extra good meeting, as some of the local horses are pretty well sure to fall out before the day, to say nothing of the outsiders. The entries for the different events total as follows:—Spring Handicap 19, Hurdles 12 (each day), Flying 19, Owen Stakes 16, Wanganui Stakes 22, and Castlecliff Stakes 18.

WELLINGTON.

[BY WIRE.]

September 20th.

The following is the official report of an important meeting of the Wellington Racing Club's stewards, which was held on Monday afternoon:—

"A meeting of the stewards of the Wellington Racing Club was held on September 19th, Mr. H. D. Bell (President) being in the chair. The principal business was the report of the Committee appointed to draft the programme for the ensuing season. The Committee recommended that the usual four meetings be held during the year, viz., Spring two days, Summer two days, Autumn two days, and Steeplechase one day. Owing to the altered Rules of Racing recently adopted by the Metropolitan Clubs, it was found necessary to increase the stakes as compared with last year to the

extent of about £350. The Committee also pointed out that it would probably also be necessary that the Club should only charge investors on the totalisator 10 per cent., and pay the State tax out of that amount. The amount paid to Government under this head last year, viz., £620, must also be considered as extra added money. After considerable discussion the report of the Committee was adopted, but with the reservation that only the Spring and Summer programmes be issued at present. The dates of the Spring Meeting were fixed for Friday and Saturday, November 18th and 19th, and those of the Summer Meeting for Monday and Tuesday, January 23rd and 24th, 1893. Mr. J. O. Evett was reappointed handicapper to the Club, Mr. S. Powell starter, and Mr. R. Roake clerk of the course. The programme of the Taratahi Carterton Hack Racing Club's Meeting, to be held on November 9th, being in order, was passed. The question of allowing both the Otaki Maori Racing Club and the Horowhenua Jockey Club to race on what is practically one racecourse was then considered, with the result that the programme submitted by the latter club for a meeting to be held on Boxing Day was refused. It was also resolved to intimate to the Heretaunga Mounted Rifles and United Hunt Club that they would not be allowed to hold race meetings in future. A Course Committee, consisting of Messrs. Jas. Bell, Scales, and Wilkins, was appointed for the current year."

The stakes to be given at the Wellington Racing Club's Spring Meeting amount to £1,000, being £105 more than last year, the additional amount being distributed over minor events, the principal race of the meeting being left at its former value, viz., 175sovs. Both selling races, however, have been struck out, and in their places are substituted a four furlong handicap on the first day and a Consolation Handicap of a mile on the second day. At the Summer Meeting small increases have been made in the hurdle races and some of the minor events. The Wellington Cup remains at 400sovs, with a piece of plate of the value of £100 added. The programme is practically the same as last year, with an increase of added money of £85. The Autumn and Winter programmes will be issued later on.

The Wellington Trotting Club have rescinded their decision to race on November 9th because of its clashing with Porirua, and have selected October 28th (Demonstration Day) for their fixture.

Mr. G. P. Donnelly's Kotuku passed through Wellington on Saturday en route for Christchurch, where she will complete her New Zealand Cup preparation under the care of E. Cuts.

NAPIER.

September 20.

St. Hippo and The Dancer, both of whom have nice racing weights, have been backed since their successful performance in Auckland.

All the local horses are striding along well, and some of them will make a bold bid to keep all the big stakes here this Spring.

At a committee meeting of the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club yesterday some gentlemen riders were elected. Messrs. Cohen and Stack's tender for the use of the totalisator for the season was accepted. The programmes of the Waipawa, Town and Suburban, and Woodville Clubs were approved. The programmes of the Herbertville and Porongahau Clubs were referred back for alteration.

Next Tuesday is general entry and acceptance night in connection with the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's Spring Meeting.

Kotuku, the New Zealand Cup candidate, who is in splendid health, has been sent to Christchurch to complete her preparation for the big November handicap.

WAIRARAPA.

FEATHERSTON Sept. 16

Yesterday Mr. Alexander McKenzie, of Featherston, sent his thoroughbred Arab stallion Kaliphia, to Palmerston North, where he will stand this season.

The Wairarapa stables are all busy getting ready for the coming campaign. The Tauherekai course is shut up, and the horses usually trained there are being exercised at Greytown. Among these is a roan colt that should be heard of to advantage, not perhaps this season, for he is still growing very fast—Mr. N. Grace's Legislator, by The Premier. C. Lyford has him in hand, and is bestow-