

Random Remarks.



[By PEGASUS.]

A.R.C. Summer Meeting.

CHRISTMAS is coming! and so is the time for the Auckland Cup to be run. Everyone has pretty well recovered from the effects of the Spring Meetings in New Zealand and Australia, and one of the pleasantest meetings in the colonies during summer is that of the A.R.C. Ellerslie with its green surroundings is indeed a pleasant spot at which to hold a gathering, and especially so in the summer. The weights for the two principal events of the meeting—Cup and Steeplechase—are out and, as usual, the plungers and punters have been running over the top of each other to get the good odds. Like the 'early birds' they are anxious to get the 'worms.' The bookies should have a 'Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year' if I can judge by the appearance of the list of weights which Mr. Evett has put together. At first appearance the Cup handicap is a first-rater. I think perhaps St. Hippo might have had a few pounds less and Impulse a few pounds more, but we'll wait and see what I think as I discuss the merits of each one engaged in the different events. To begin then with the

AUCKLAND CUP.

Crackshot heads the poll with 8.12, and at that weight he is in about his right place. He could hardly get off with less. My opinion is it is not so much a question of weight as of staying power. Evidently he can manage a 12 furlong journey all right, but I think every yard over that distance gradually brings him back to his field. Perhaps he may get a 'shop,' but I am not sanguine of his getting home in the very fore-front of his field. St. Hippo comes next with 8.9, and has got rather more than his deserts. Had he got about 8.6 I should have been more satisfied. Still his chance even at a stone over w.f.a. cannot be overlooked, for there is not the shadow of a doubt that he is a stayer of the first water. No doubt Mr. Evett had this in his mind's eye when placing the figures opposite the name of the N.Z. Cup winner. The Workman, 8.5, has, if anything, a little too much to carry, and I should prefer him for a shorter journey, not to exceed a mile-and-a-half. Merganser, 8.0, is well treated after her win in the Otago Cup the other day, in which she romped home an easy winner with 8.3 in the saddle. She has been installed a 'red-hot favourite' for the Auckland Cup, and for that reason I feel inclined to turn against her as the winner. Whether she will be good enough to last out to the end of the two mile journey with her 8.0 is no certainty, and my candid opinion at the time of writing is that she will not win. This savours strongly of going 'dead agin' the popular fancy. But we'll see. Morion, 7.11, is not badly treated, but I don't like him. Impulse is literally 'thrown in' at 7.8, but he has not shown anything as yet which would warrant me in taking him on my side. Should he win I shall be inclined to believe the rest are sick, or lame, or 'not on the job,' or something else—all of which is a very unlikely occurrence. Pinfire, 7.8, won this event last year with 6.10 up, and it may be difficult to land him at the post in better condition than he was last year. The difference of weight—12lb—will be a mere nothing to a horse of his stamp, but he will have a different class of horses to compete against this time. Besides he is not at all likely to get the race run in such a suitable manner as last time, which makes a 'lump' of difference. I shall include him however in my 'dangerous division.' Scot Free, 7.7, I discard in favour of his stable mate Lochness Coalscuttle, 7.5, is well handicapped, and the fact that she is now very 'fit' warrants her present position in the betting market. Bear in mind though that she is a 'she,' and 'thereby hangs a tale' in racing probabilities at this season of the year. For this reason and this alone I feel constrained to 'pass her by.' Compared with last year's event, in which she got second, she meets Pinfire on 2lb better terms, and I opine he will beat her

again just as easily as before in addition to the fact that he belongs to the sterner sex. Brigand, 7.4, could not expect less, but I have very little fancy for his chance. He will hardly be class enough, and is rather on the small side for carrying his burden alongside better-class, larger and stronger horses. Regel and His Worship each have 7.3 and, both being started (which is unlikely), I prefer the latter. He has not been 'busting the show' lately, but he may not have been quite screwed up to 'concert pitch.' My advice to backers is don't let him start without a 'little saving clause' about him as I take him on my side as a genuine cockboat. Lochness, 7.2, I prefer to Scot Free as the 'rep.' of McKinnon's stable, and notwithstanding the general impression that he cannot stay the distance, I am not of that 'feather.' His third in the Hawke's Bay Cup last autumn, with 8.7 up, in the good time of 3min. 8secs. has always impressed me with the idea that he would and could get further as he got older. Now, with 20lb less, he should have a 'cut in,' and I look to him to make a very bold bid for victory when the convincing time arrives. Glaucus, 6.12, has not been seen as yet to great advantage, but his excitable temperament must mitigate greatly against his chance even supposing he were class enough of which 'I ha'e ma doots.' Tulloch, 6.7, is down as low as he can be, but I couldn't find myself partial to him even with the proverbial 'postage stamp.' In conclusion I may say I feel partial to the chances of only five out of the lot, viz., Pinfire, Lochness, St. Hippo, Crackshot and His Worship, but will reserve a final decision till next issue.

A.R.C. STEEPLCHASE.

This event has filled rather poorly considering the value of the stake. Yet I expect to see a great 'go' for the money, and feel satisfied the whole eight will start. Fishmonger is at the 'head of the poll,' and with only 11.0 to carry is certainly 'up to his neck' in it. Mangere, 10.7, has yet to prove his ability to successfully negotiate the stiff steeplechase country of Ellerslie, but I take it his owner must consider he has a good chance or else he would not have left him in. By the way he can 'get' when contesting a 'little sticks' event I feel very sweet on him for this race. Whatever beats him should win. Aorere at the same weight is a warm 'un over hurdles, but is an unknown quantity at steeplechasing. Evidently he must have a show else he would not be brought up all the way from the South unless it be with a view to having a 'dart' at the Hurdles, and, therefore, dropping out of the Steeple. Tupara, 9.11, is well treated, but seems unfortunate in always finding out something in it a shade better and most often only manages to get second. However there is never a 'moral' in a steeplechase. Nero, 9.10, on his Avondale performance, can have a very poor chance, for Fishmonger, who ran second there, has now 10lb. less to carry, whereas Nero, who ran third, has only 7lb. less. This points to Fishmonger holding Nero quite safe now. Business, 9.7, is too well known to require any lengthy comment. Doubtless he will get to the end of the journey, but I am afraid not quickly enough. Neli, 9.7, has not, so far, shewn any wonderful form to warrant favourable mention, but he might manage to creep home in this, and if anything is likely to 'capsize the boiler' he is just the joker. At present I think the result will read MANGERE or FISHMONGER.

Auckland Trotting Club.

This Club's Summer Meeting, which commences on Tuesday, the 27th inst., has enormous fields engaged in its various events. I shall have ample time to discuss the various items in the next issue, when I shall again attempt an 'assay' of the results. I like Clyde, Ike, Martha, Mount and Fairy very well in the Trotting Cup, and Lady May, Vampire, Rodney and Sepoy in the Pony Cup.

Owners, Note!

AUCKLAND R.C.'s SUMMER, 1894-5.

The attention of owners is directed to the conditions of the Great Northern Derby and Foal Stakes, to be run at the Auckland Racing Club's Summer Meeting of 1894-5. The conditions of each race are advertised in another portion of this issue, and owners of youngsters must not forget that the day of nomination is January 13th next.

AUCKLAND R.C.'s SUMMER MEETING.

The general entries for this meeting close as under to-morrow, the 16th inst:—
 Trial Stakes of 80 sovs., 1 mile and a distance.
 2 sovs.
 Handicap Hurdles of 150 sovs., 2 miles, 1 sov.
 Railway Handicap of 100 sovs., 6 furlongs, 1 sov.
 Nursery Handicap of 80 sovs., 5 furlongs, 1 sov.
 Maiden Steeplechase of 100 sovs., 3 miles, 1 sov.
 Christmas Handicap of 100 sovs., 1 1/4 mile, 1 sov.
 New Year's Handicap Hurdle Race of 120 sovs., 2 miles, 1 sov.
 Newmarket Handicap of 100 sovs., 6 furlongs, 1 sov.
 Midsummer Handicap of 150 sovs., 5 furlongs, 2 sovs.
 County Handicap of 75 sovs., 1 mile, 1 sov.
 Maiden Handicap of 60 sovs., 1 mile and a distance, 1 sov.
 Welter Handicap of 50 sovs., 1 mile, 1 sov.
 Grandstand Handicap of 100 sovs., 1 1/4 mile, 1 sov.
 Sylvia Handicap of 100 sovs., 1 1/4 mile, 1 sov.
 Auckland Plate of 200 sovs., 1 1/4 miles, 2 sovs.
 Selling Stakes of 50 sovs., 6 furlongs, 2 sovs.
 Musket Stakes of 150 sovs., 6 furlongs, 2 sovs.
 Victoria Handicap of 100 sovs., 7 furlongs, 1 sov.
 At the same time the first forfeits for the Great Northern Derby and Foal Stakes have to be declared. Owners striking their nominations out on or before to-morrow night will have nothing to pay—otherwise they will be liable for 5 sovs. forfeit for each event.

AUCKLAND TROTTER CLUB'S SUMMER.

The undermentioned nominations for the second day's events of this meeting, which comes off on the 27th and 31st inst., are due to-morrow at 10 p.m.:—
 Second Maiden Trot of 50 sovs., 2 miles, 1 sov.
 Flying Stakes of 40 sovs., 5 furlongs, 10s.
 President's Trot Handicap of 150 sovs., 3 miles, 2 sovs.
 New Year's Handicap of 60 sovs., 7 furlongs, 1 sov.
 Harness Trot Handicap of 60 sovs., 2 miles, 1 sov.
 Pony Steeplechase of 70 sovs., 2 1/4 miles, 1 sov.
 Second Pony Trot Handicap of 30 sovs., 2 miles, 10s.
 Second Electric Trot Handicap of 50 sovs., 1 mile, 1 sov.
 The full programme of the meeting appears in our advertising columns.

GISBORNE RACING CLUB'S SUMMER:

On Tuesday next, the 20th inst., the following nominations close with the secretary of the G.R.C., Mr M. G. Nasmyth, at the Argyll Hotel, Gisborne, as per programme advertised in another column:—
 Gisborne Handicap of 40 sovs., 1 mile, 1 sov.
 Flying Handicap of 50 sovs., 6 furlongs, 1 sov.
 First Hurdle Handicap of 65 sovs., 2 miles, 1 sov.
 President's Handicap of 130 sovs., 1 1/2 mile, 2 sovs.
 Park Stakes Handicap of 50 sovs., 1 mile and a distance, 1 sov.
 County Stakes Handicap of 40 sovs., 7 furlongs, 1 sov.
 Stewards' Handicap of 50 sovs., 1 mile and a distance, 1 sov.
 Second Hurdles of 55 sovs., 1 1/4 mile, 1 sov.
 Grandstand Handicap of 80 sovs., 1 1/4 mile, 1 sov.

EGMONT RACING CLUB.

For this Club's Summer Meeting, the dates of which are February 15th and 16th, the following nominations close on Tuesday next, at 9 p.m., with the secretary at Hawera:—
 Waimate Handicap of 60 sovs., 7 furlongs, 1 sov.
 First Hurdles of 100 sovs., 2 miles and a distance, 1 sov.
 Second Hurdles of 80 sovs., 2 miles and a distance, 1 sov.
 Egmont Handicap of 300 sovs., 2 miles, 1 sov.
 Atkinson Memorial Handicap of 200 sovs., 1 1/2 mile, 1 sov.
 Hawera Welter Handicap of 50 sovs., 1 mile, 1 sov.
 Flying Handicap of 100 sovs., 6 furlongs, 1 sov.
 Normanby Stakes Handicap of 50 sovs., 1 mile and a distance, 1 sov.

ALEXANDRA RACES.

Acceptances for these races close on Tuesday next, the 20th inst.

WHATAWHATA RACES.

Acceptances for these races close on Wednesday next, the 21st inst.

DRURY RACES.

Acceptances for these races close to-morrow (Friday) as under, with the secretary, Drury, or with Mr. H. H. Hayr at the SPORTING REVIEW office:—
 Drury Cup of 45 sovs., 1 1/4 miles, 25s.
 Handicap Hurdle Race of 25 sovs., 2 miles, 15s.
 Flying Stakes Handicap of 20 sovs., 6 furlongs, 10s.
 Drury Racing Club Handicap of 25 sovs., 1 1/4 miles, 15s.
 Stewards' Handicap of 20 sovs., 1 mile, 10s.
 Nominations are due at the same time for the Novel Handicap of 20 sovs., 1 mile (10s.) and the Maiden Plate of 20 sovs., 1 mile (1 sov.)

THAMES JOCKEY CLUB.

Acceptances are due to-morrow (Friday) as under, at 8 p.m.:—
 Maiden Handicap of 25 sovs., 6 furlongs, 15s.
 First Hurdles of 35 sovs., 1 1/4 miles, 1 sov.
 Thames Handicap of 45 sovs., 1 1/4 miles, 1 sov.
 Welter Handicap of 25 sovs., 1 mile, 15s.
 First Handicap Steeplechase of 50 sovs., 2 1/2 miles, 1 sov.

Music, Drama.

"ORPHEUS," who, his many friends will be glad to hear, is rapidly regaining his strength at Te Aroha, writes us from there.—"The young people here, as well as children of an older growth, recently laughed over and admired the clever performances of "Peter" and "Frank," two large American bears trained by the Souquet brothers, champion animal trainers. Peter is a genuine grizzly, weighing some 600lbs, and sporting a magnificent fur. Frank is one of the Cinnamon species, of long and gaunt proportions. Under the direction of their trainers this intelligent brace of bruins perform all the usual tricks of dancing, bowing, drilling with poles for rifles, kissing their masters most lovingly, climbing ladders, etc., etc. But the *piece de resistance* of the entertainment is the wrestling by the two bears, not only with each other, but even with human adversaries, whom they treat with the utmost courtesy. For example, I will describe a contest between a Mr. Hill, of Waiorongamai, and the Cinnamon bear Frank. At the word go Frank stood up, and keeping a careful eye on the enemy, walked round with outstretched paws, Hill the while trying for an opening. At last the pair got on terms and embraced; then began a most wily and crafty series of stratagems on the part of Bruin, who played with scrupulous fairness and gentleness. Had he so desired he could certainly have crushed in his opponent's ribs, or torn clothes and skin to ribbons with his formidable claws. But no! Frank used only the legitimate resources of his art, and to tell the truth put his man down or went down himself in obedience to a secret signal given by M. Souquet. If Hill was down, it was really immense to watch Frank's efforts to press both his adversary's shoulders on the floor, which, according to French and Græco-Roman rules, constitutes a fall. Not less amusing were the bouts between the two bears, who showed real science in the matter of holds, locks, and trips, and kept their temper to perfection. The trainers, M. M. Souquet brothers and M. Ponsolle, have served in the French army, and are fine specimens of the gallant and polite French 'Militaires.' In putting up at the Te Aroha Club Hotel they were fortunate in meeting with a host—Mr. Bell—who speaks French like a native. M. M. Souquet and Ponsolle purpose again visiting Auckland about February next, and readers of the SPORTING REVIEW should take 'Orpheus' tip and not fail to see the bears wrestling."

THE recent death at Fitzroy, Melbourne, of Mrs. Avins, at the advanced age of 76, removes the last surviving link between the Melbourne stage of to-day and the earliest theatre opened in Melbourne. The deceased actress performed in the first play presented in the first theatre, erected on the site of what is now the Bull and Mouth Hotel, in Bourke-street. The comedietta of "The Widow's Victim" and the farce of the "Lottery Ticket" constituted the chief attractions of the evening, Mrs. Avins playing Jane in the first and Susan in the second piece. When Mr Coppin built the Olympic, or "Tinpot," as it was popularly called, at the corner of Lonsdale and Stephen-streets, Melbourne, in 1855, Mrs. Avins was engaged for "general utility," and supported G. V. Brooke, Fanny Cathcart (afterwards Mrs. George Darrell), Mrs. Charles Young (afterwards Mrs. Herman Vezin), and other prominent ornaments of the profession; and accompanied them in their subsequent migration to the Theatre Royal.

A CABLEGRAM from England announces the death from typhoid fever of Mr. Fred Leslie, the famous Gaiety actor and singer, who visited Australia last year with Miss Nellie Farren and the Gaiety Burlesque Company.

WE are sorry to hear that there has been a split in the Dobson-Kennedy Dramatic Company which has held the road for several years past. It appears that owing to some disagreement in Wellington Messrs. Dobson and Kennedy have dis-