

Inter-Provincial

[FROM OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

NAPIER.

December 29.

Pearl Powder won the Waipawa C.R.O. Handicap on three legs.

Hippona (dam of the great Northern crack, St. Hippo) has dropped a colt foal to St. Andrew or Le Loup. It is considered pretty certain, though, that the Hawke's Bay Guineas winner is the sire of the youngster.

The two-year-old colt by Foul Play—Miss Dargon will probably be named *Comedy*. He is at Martindale.

Mr Douglas' Jocasta has dropped a foal to the Musket horse Hiko.

The winning sires at the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's meeting were Mute, St. George, Somnus, Lord of the Isles, Foul Play and Cadogan. Chester's pedigree is unknown.

Two youngsters at Mangatarata, one by Forerunner—Miss Dargon and the other by Forerunner—Cartouche, both met with accidents while being operated upon recently and are dead.

It is Mr Douglas' intention to hold a sale of young blood stock at Te Mahanga in March next, when twenty lots, or perhaps more, will be offered by auction.

Nanki Poo II., who paid £25 in a race at Waipawa, belongs to a station cadet at Tamumu. He used to hack him about everywhere, and noticing that the animal, who is by Hercules, was possessed of some speed, he was induced to place him in the hands of Joe Griffiths to train. Joe only had him about a week when he entered him for Waipawa, rode him, took the lead after the flag fell and won all the way, notwithstanding the efforts made by Jewel, a daughter of Bundoora, to catch him.

Beggarman, who raced at Hastings for the first time on Boxing Day, is a nice-looking chestnut with a rather suspicious leg.

The three colts, The Possible (Nordenfeldt—Realisation), Kempenfeldt (Nordenfeldt—Bianca), and the Newminster—Beryl colt, who has not yet been given a name, will leave Hastings for Australia on or about 15th February. Hickey has come over for them, and will only take the trio. This will be a better contingent than has yet been taken to Australia by Mr Gollan. A better boned lot will not have left the Colony, and although Nicholls thinks there is a great future before the Beryl colt, I fancy Maxim's half-brother will turn out a great colt. He takes a lot of picking to pieces.

A mare that should soon pay her oat bill is Secret, by Mute—Mystery. She is owned by Goodwin, and when well forward ought to show a bit of pace.

Sir Tatton, by Tatler—Dolly Varden, made his first appearance up here over sticks in the Trial Hurdles at Waipawa, but was not near at the finish. He was giving everything weight, however.

Three youngsters—a St. George—Fair Nell, Nordenfeldt—Iphigenia, and another young Nordenfeldt—are about to be brought down from Mangarata and broken-in by Nicholls.

Lorelei, the dam of Noyade (winner of the Two-year-old race at Hastings) is full sister to Satyr, the hurdler.

Pearl Powder was covered by Henchman this season.

Merganser ran just about where I thought she would in the Auckland Cup. I was pretty certain that she would get a place, but I could not see her in it with St. Hippo, whom I was enamoured with before the Hawke's Bay Guineas, and picked him for every race he has started for since. He is a regular Carbine. Eight stone nine did not trouble him in the Auckland Cup, and the question is could he have carried 9.0 to victory just as easily. I think so, because weight does not trouble a good horse the same as it does indifferent animals, on whom people are continually losing their money. Carbine won the Sydney Cup as a three-year-old with 9.0 up in 3.31. St. Hippo romps home in the Auckland Cup in 3.30½, and when we come to look at his New Zealand Cup performance in the Spring the admission must be made that he is "a dandy." I do not think, if he is well, anything in Australia will make him gallop if he goes across in March.

(BY WIRE.)

Tuesday.

A man named Comisky got a month's imprisonment here last week for altering a totalisator ticket and seeking payment from the totalisator proprietors on a winning ticket, and to-day a youth of seventeen summers named Walsh re-

ceived a like sentence for a similar offence. Both cases took place at Hastings on Boxing Day.

At Woodville races there was a good attendance. Most of the races were won easily. Lady Isabel, who won at Ashurst, started the day by appropriating the Stewards' Handicap of one mile with 8.9 up, Eclipse and Clio being in the other places. Secret and Lobelia also ran. Dividend, £3 4. She also won the Flying Handicap with 9.0 up, Stock Boy being second, and Sunlight third. Lobelia and Secret were again unplaced. Mr. Quinlivan's mare won easily. Dividend, £1 12s. The W.J.C. Handicap saw Osman drop out. Mr. Gaisford's Maid of Lorne, by Lord of the Isles—Marie Antoinette, won easily by three lengths from Mairua and Eclipse, and paid £3 8s. dividend. Sunlight, Waterbury's half-sister, was the only other starter. In the Selling Race Waverley just got home from Banker, and paid £1 13s. The Maiden Hurdles fell to Active, who beat Risk, Esau, and Banker, and paid £2 13s. The two last-named ran off. Southern Chief cantered home as he liked in the Maiden Plate, and paid £2 17s. The last race of the day was the High Weight Handicap, which Clio won from Waverley, Banker, Pat, and Pango. Dividend, £3 8s. All the horses for the Hurdle Race were scratched, and the event consequently fell through.

Owing to bad weather, the Napier Park Racing Club's Meeting could not be held on Monday, when it rained all day. The stewards consequently postponed them until Friday. I think Chester will win the Trial Hurdles; Kapua the Midsummer, with Free Lance and Rangiatea in the places; Zanella the Two Year Old; Water Lily the Settlers' Handicap, with Chris and Tell Tit in the places; and St. Katherine the New Year Handicap, with Rosefeldt second and Queen of Trumps third. For the Flying I like Ua, with Free Lance second and Dreamland third.

I notice in your last issue "Sir Launcelot" refers to Noyade, winner of the two-year-old race at Hastings, as being by Forerunner out of Falconet. This is wrong; her breeding is by Lord of the Isles—Lorelei. Captain Russell, to whom she belongs, however, has a youngster by Forerunner out of Falconet called Jangal, and the breeding of the pair is mixed up in the book programme issued by the Auckland Racing Club. It was this that probably misled you.

["Sir Launcelot" took his information from the A.R.C.'s book programme.—ED. SP. REV.]

Wednesday.

Owing to continued bad weather the stewards of the Napier Park R.C. have further postponed their races till Tuesday.

TARANAKI.

December 30.

The Taranaki Jockey Club's Boxing Day Hack Meeting was held under decidedly favourable circumstances, and naturally proved a great success. The weather was magnificent; the attendance large, numbering about 2000; and speculation in the machine was brisk, Mr F. Hill putting through a total of £2188, which is about £400 in excess of last year. All the officers of the club worked well, and especial praise is due to Mr R. G. Bauchope, the hon. sec., who carried out his duties in a thorough manner, and to the satisfaction of all those interested. The equine hero of the meeting was Mr J. George's black colt Melas (not Melos), who is a four-year-old son of Armourer and Confidante. Melas is a fine stamp of an animal, and I expect to see Mr George pick up better stakes than hack races with him in the future. Looking at him on the course I should say that the colt is susceptible of a great deal of improvement. Another frivolous protest was entered after the Ladies' Purse race, the trainer of the second horse endeavouring to make the race void by protesting against its not being run according to programme time. The protest was properly dismissed. The only accident was the falling of Cingalee in the hurdle race, but neither the rider (Higginson) or the mare sustained any injury. C. Riley had two winning mounts, Cudd two, Mantel one, W. Watson one, W. Cook one, and D. O'Meara one. The last-named scored his win in his maiden ride over sticks. The finishes in the Hurdles, Welter and Farewell Handicaps were very close, especially in the latter between Sirius, Union Jack and Maroro. There was a demonstration when Capt. Mace gave the race to Sirius.

[BY WIRE.]

Tuesday.

Opunake races were held on Monday in showery weather. There was a large attendance. £1920 was put through by Messrs Adams and Andrews. Results:—Hurdles: Nugget 1; Strategy, 2; Karewa, 3. Dividend, £3 8s.—Flying: Mutiny, 1; Sirius, 2; Merman, 3. Time, 1min 21 4-5 sec. Dividend, £2 8s.—Harakeke Stakes: Strayshot, 1; Docility, 2; Rona, 3. Time, 1min 54 4-5 sec. Dividend, £1 19s.—Opunake Handicap: Melas, 1; Shiela, 2; Centie, 3. Time, 2min 51 sec. Dividend, £1 8s.—Selling Race: Marangai, 1; Tipoka, 2; Noval, 3. Dividend, £8 17s.—Opua Stakes: Mutiny, 1; Melas, 2; Shiela, 3. Dividend, £8 12s.—Forced Handicap: Mutiny, 1; Sirius, 2; Nugget, 3. Dividend, £2.

WELLINGTON.

[BY WIRE.]

Tuesday.

Mr W. Best's Osman, 5yrs, by Crawford Priory—Ruth, who ran third in the Hack Race on the second day of the last Wellington Spring Meeting with 9st up, made a successful debut in racehorse company at Lower Valley on Boxing Day, winning the principal race easily with 7.12 in the saddle. He is a fine cut of horse, and can stay very well. A very promising hack that ran at the meeting is Mr C. R. Bidwell's ch m Halia, 4yrs, by Premier—Medora. She won the Maiden at Paratahi on November 9th, and at Lower Valley had 8.0 and won the Hack Handicap with a lot in hand. Reek, who won the Maiden Handicap, is a four-year-old bay filly, by Remington—Makora, and belongs to Mr K. McKenzie, of Tauherinikan. She is a nice, level, well-made mare, but is rather light in the bone.

At Masterton-Opaki, Mr W. Freeth as usual had his horses Revolution and Rebellion in splendid condition. Curiously enough, Rebellion lost two races which he should have won, and Revolution won a race which he should have lost. Rebellion was beaten a head by Comet, both in the Waipipi Handicap, one mile, and in the Telegraph Stakes, ¾ mile. I think the issues would have been different had J. Reed (who has hitherto always ridden the horse) been up on this occasion. There was a slight disagreement between Freeth and Reed some weeks ago, causing them to part, and Mr T. Ray, owner of Comet, at once secured his services for the meeting. That the disagreement has been healed was shown by Freeth giving Reed the mount on Revolution in the Opaki Stakes. In this race Mr Tancred's Senator, a beautiful chestnut roan colt by Administrator—Fair Agnes (dam of Master Agnes), was well ahead when it is said something went wrong with his bit, and he began to run all over the course, going for some distance on the plough gallop, which is on the outside of the track. This caused him to lose fully three chains, but when Connop straightened him up he made up his ground in a wonderful manner and again got into the lead. The effort, however, took too much out of him, and Revolution beat him in the run home. Mr. Tancred won the Hack Hurdles with Oddfellow by Premier—Misdeal, a hack who is almost at the top of the tree both on the flat and over hurdles. Kakaka, who was his only opponent, jumped very badly, and staked himself so severely at one of the jumps that it is not likely he will run again this season, even if he recovers at all. The same owner also won the Consolation with Senator. His filly Princess of Whales by Piscatorious—Princess Royal was thought before the meeting to have a great chance in the two short Handicaps, but she utterly failed to come up to expectation, and could not get a place. In the Maiden Hack Race there were several very promising animals. The winner turned up in a horse that was supposed to be altogether short of work, and on this account was not backed by his owner. His name is Sea Serpent, and he is a three-year-old gelding belonging to Mr R. W. Cave, the club's president. He is by Piscatorious from Rumour, who used to be a companion of Pasha in Mr T. H. Hill's stable, and was afterwards raced by Mr J. Leopold. Sea Serpent got away badly, but he came through with a rush in the straight and fairly romped home a three lengths winner. This youngster has a magnificent frame, and should turn out a real good one. Another smart one is Mr. McDonald's mare Waikino, who led from the start to within fifty yards of the post, when Sea Serpent came and smothered her. Waikino is by Puriri, and like most of that horse's get is fast but shifty. Mr

H. Cutts' Paraki, by Premier—The Field (dam of Mahara) started favourite in this race but ran very badly. Her form was too bad to be true, and better things may be expected of her later on. The Handicap Hack Race fell to Makomoko, 7.12, an aged gelding by Admiral—Makura, who has recently shown very good form. Oddfellow, 8.12, was a good second, and the top weight, Brookfield, 9.3 (who was favourite), third. This race was a very interesting one. Mr Cave's Ahitangi, another scion of Piscatorious, led for over a mile, and then when looking all over a winner suddenly collapsed in the straight. The Wellington horse Angler started in the Waipipi and Telegraph Handicap, but could not get near the front. His owner, Mr Hamilton, was so disgusted with his running that he altered his mind about leaving him up for the Wairarapa meeting and had him taken home at once.

At Palmerston North the Wellington candidates Retina, La Petite Fille, and Luna failed to score a win in the Palmerston Cup, and in the principal race on the second day—the President's Handicap—Retina was a hot favourite. Liberator beat her fairly on the first day, but if her heart had been as big as an egg she ought to have won on the second day, as she led by three lengths into the straight and shut up like a knife when Rangipuhi collared her. She has been scratched for the Rangitikei Meeting, and been shipped back to Christchurch, where I expect Cutts will try and get her well for the Wellington Cup.

Whether owing to the disqualification of Mariner in the hack hurdle race at the last Wellington Spring Meeting or not I do not know, but it is announced that his owner, Mr W. B. Buick, an old racing man in the Masterton district, is about to sell off a large number of his horses (thoroughbred and draught), and it was noticeable that he had nothing representing him at the Masterton—Opaki Meeting, though Mariner ran at Lower Valley and finished second to Cyrus II. in the Hurdle Race.

The Wairarapa Racing Club's Summer Meeting on Monday and Tuesday was the most successful yet held by the club, and should result in a large balance to profit. The improvements made since the last meeting were much appreciated, especially the new stand and totalisator house. Mr M. Bock, the secretary, was indefatigable in discharging his onerous duties. The sport was excellent, and great enthusiasm was caused by the victory of Viola II in the Wairarapa Cup, the owner being a very popular Featherston resident. The Hurdle Handicap fell to Playboy with Jacob second and Mariner third. Dividend, £4 12s. Nuts won the Hack Hurdles, beating Welcome Charlie only and paying £1 2s. Rebellion won the Flying Handicap with Legislator second and Comet third. Dividend, £2 18s. The Hack Handicap went to The Toad. Dividend, £8 18s. The Wairarapa Cup brought out four runners, and Viola II won by three lengths from Senator, with Osman third. Dividend, £4 7s. The Hack Handicap was won by Dromedary; dividend, £3 3s; and the Welter Handicap by Legislator; dividend, £3 17s.

At the second day of the Wairarapa races £3,302 went through the totalisator, making a total of £7,033. The Hurdles fell to Mutineer, paying £8 3s; the Hack Hurdles to Dromedary, paying £2 2s; the President's Handicap to Legislator, with Viola II. second and Tuhitara third, dividend £2 10s; the Hack Flying Handicap to Donovan, paying £4 3s; the Racing Club Handicap to Violence, with Senator second and Comet third, dividend £2 9s; Valley Hack Handicap to Dromedary, dividend £2 12s; the New Year Handicap to Viola II., dividend £1 16s.

The five-year-old mare Jenny Lind, by Grand Duke, has been purchased from Mr W. Whiteman by a Hutt sportsman.

The unruly members of the Wairarapa Racing Club who created a disturbance on Monday were to-day called before the stewards, and warned that if the offence were again committed they would be summarily expelled the club.

Stud News.

Hon. J. D. Ormond's Hippona, by Robinson Crusoe—Lamorna, a colt foal to St. Andrew or Le Loup.

Mr W. Douglas' Jocasta, by Day Dawn—Germaine's dam, a filly foal to Hiko.

Old Rewi is now figuring at unregistered meetings near Melbourne. At Oakleigh, on Dec. 13, he was third in a five furlong Selling Race, and on the same course in the following week finished second in a similar event. Another ex-New Zealander Cocksfoot was an unsuccessful competitor at the same meeting.