

Coming Events.

[BY SIR LAUNCELOT.]

TAKAPUNA JOCKEY CLUB'S SUMMER MEETING.

THIS popular club will commence their Summer Meeting on Saturday and bring it to a conclusion on Monday (Anniversary Day). Mr Knight did his handicapping so well for the first day's events that the percentage of non-acceptors has been very small indeed. Large prices were paid on Friday at the sale of the privileges, and with fine weather—which generally seems to be a perquisite of the Takapuna Jockey Club—there should be a large concourse of spectators on both days, especially on the Monday, which will be observed as the Anniversary Day holiday.

Business will be commenced on Saturday with the Handicap Maiden Plate of 30sovs, one mile, for which Mr Knight scored a rattling record in the matter of acceptance, for every one of the fourteen weighted by him accepted. This shows the popularity of these Maiden Handicaps which, as I have before mentioned, might be introduced with advantage into some of the programmes of the South Island clubs. This by the way, though, I adhere to the opinion I expressed last week that, with a start, Waltzer will win, and if he is beaten I opine that either Stanley or Muriel will be his conqueror.

The Handicap Hurdle Race of 70 sovs, two miles, comes next, and with only Belmont, Tupara, and Ilma eliminated, the good field of ten remains. Commenting on the handicaps last week, I expressed my opinion that whatever beats Aorere will win, and I picked Marechal Neil as next best. Now to put in another to supply the other place I shall pick Bombardier, and shall place them—Aorere, 1; Marechal Neil, 2; Bombardier, 3.

The Zealandia Handicap of 50sovs, five furlongs, is the succeeding item. Here we have only a couple of non-acceptors, which leaves 13 "contents." It should in justice to the handicapper also be mentioned that St. Clements, one of the non-acceptors, met with an injury the other day which rendered him incapable of being further trained for the present. If His Worship be started for this in preference to reserving him for the Takapuna Cup, he should just about win, but I expect the Cup will have more attraction for his owner. Waltzer is another entitled to great respect, if he be not a competitor in the Maiden Plate. As the acceptors are at present, Warrior heads the list at 8.4, and though he has run a good five furlongs on the course I think the weight will anchor him now. Lady Belle would have a show at 8.2 if she had been up long enough, but as she has not I must discard her. When writing last week I expressed the opinion that Tamar would get a nice 5 furlongs with 7.8 if in the humour. That little "if" again comes in, but, nevertheless, reckoning that some of them may go out before the numbers are hoisted, I shall have Tamar on my side. Stamford, 7.0, may effect a surprise, but I shall go for Tamar to win, with His Worship or Warrior (whichever is sent from the stable) next best, and Stamford third.

The Takapuna Cup of 200sovs, one mile and a-half, which is the *piece de resistance* of the day's card, has an acceptance of 11, the absentees being Impulse (who was scratched soon after the weights appeared), Pinfire, Regel, Stranger, Tulloch, Lady Belle, Waltzer, and Sir Roland. When the weights appeared I selected Impulse, Pinfire, and Ingorina to supply the winner, with Ida as a good outsider, and I must say I was extremely surprised at the defection of Impulse and Pinfire—the latter especially. The respective stables in which they are trained have, however, curiously enough, each left in another representative, Kean's being represented by Lottie and the Papakura establishment by Glaucus. Glaucus I will not have at all, and though perhaps Kean has supplied what looks like a strong tip by withdrawing Impulse and leaving Lottie in, I think Coalscuttle will beat the daughter of Muskapeer, wherever they may finish in the race. It must not be understood, though, that I am much enamoured of Coalscuttle's chance. Far from it, for unless her form in the A.R.C. Handicap was all wrong she cannot have much show now. Morion has lately been so much of a disappointment that I must decline to stand him at 8.10. Ingorina, 8.0, and Ida, 7.8, I intend to stick by, though, and I cannot help

thinking that Tit, 7.8, will be able to cut out a decent mile and a half. Of those below her I would certainly stand to His Worship if I thought he would run, and if he start I expect him and Tit to fight out a battle for third place behind Ingorina and Ida, whom I fancy will finish first and second in that order.

The Calliope Handicap of 70sovs, six furlongs, for two-year-olds, only had one malcontent, and that was the minimum weight Jennie. Thus a septette is left. I thought that perhaps Eve's 9.2 would not be agreeable to her owner, but though well weighted up to her best performance, he has not shirked the contest with her. While I think she will run well in spite of her big weight, I expect, as I indicated last week, that both Royal Rose and Captivity will beat her, Captivity for choice.

The Handicap Maiden Steeplechase of 50sovs, about three miles, has a dozen acceptors, Nero and Ilma being the only two that have dropped out. Maritana, 10.12, and Blue Ribbon, 9.12, are the pair I stick to, and if they are beaten it may be by Kate.

The Borough Handicap of 30sovs, six furlongs, is rather a difficult race to pick because many of the ten engaged have accepted for other races during the day, and there is therefore a doubt about what will start. All in, Acacia and Muriel seem to me most worthy of support, and with that expression of opinion I shall leave it.

Mr Knight has every reason to feel highly gratified at the fact that only one horse has declined his adjustment for the Stewards' Handicap of 65sovs, six furlongs and a half, and that is St. Clements, who is at present *hors de combat*. The splendid acceptance of 17 leaves us with a puzzle extremely hard to pick—the more so as there are earlier engagements for several of the nags to fulfil. Warrior, Waltzer, and His Worship all read dangerous at the weights allotted them, but perhaps it will be better to select a fresh horse and go for Stranger, and Como, who is a bit handy over a short course, may be next best.

The only items of the second day's card with which I can deal (the weights will not be declared till Saturday night) are the Takapuna Stakes for three-year olds, one mile one and three quarter furlongs; and the Handicap Steeplechase of 150sovs, about 3½ miles. For the former various circumstances have contributed to reduce the field to a trio, Brown Alice, His Worship and Sir Roland, and after her Great Northern Derby form Brown Alice should have little difficulty in beating the brace opposed to her.

The Handicap Steeplechase is likely to have a good deal of light thrown upon it by the results of the Hurdle and Maiden Steeplechase on the Saturday, but as the weights at present stand I feel inclined to divide my suffrages between the two top weights Aorere and Fishmonger, with Carronade for an outside chance.

The privileges for the meeting were sold on Friday by Messrs. Tonks and Co., and realised the following prices:—Outside booth, sole right, £81, Mr P. Quinlan; grand stand bar, £61, Mr James Hawkins; refreshment stalls, £14 15s, Mrs McIntosh; cards, £42, Scott Printing Company; gates, £145, Mr E. W. Alison.

OTAHUHU TROTTING CLUB'S MEETING.

THE Otahuhu Trotting Club will again solicit public patronage on the 11th prox, when they will bring off a programme of seven events with a total of £250 in added money. The entries received on Friday night are fairly numerous, though not quite up to expectations. There are 18 in the Maiden Trot, 20 in the Maiden Pony Race, 14 in the Trotting Club Cup, 16 in the Flying Stakes, 9 in the Harness Trot, 8 in the Hurdle Handicap, and 8 in the Electric Trot. The handicaps are due to appear to-morrow.

BAY OF PLENTY JOCKEY CLUB.

JUDGING by the acceptances and entries received and by the interest evinced in Auckland and Tauranga sporting circles, racing in Tauranga under the auspices of the Bay of Plenty Jockey Club is this year likely to "boom" once more. And we Aucklanders would be glad to see it do so, for the Tauranga people are real good sportsmen, and many an Auckland and many a Southerner too—myself among the latter—have pleasant recollections of a day or two's stay in Tauranga, where, I can assure my readers, you can get, what to an epicure is a luxury, *the best fish breakfast procurable*

in New Zealand, or, with the exception of Geelong (another place of which I have similar pleasant recollections), I might say throughout the whole of the Australasian colonies. Tauranga is, like Nelson and Geelong perhaps, somewhat of a "Sleepy Hollow," but there are some pretty surroundings to it, and for the sake of the scenery, the good hospitality met with, and the racing, I am sure many more Aucklanders would have gone there than intend to owing to Takapuna races falling on the same day, January 30th.

The Club (who, by the way, are racing under the Metropolitan Clubs' Rules; have, I am pleased to see, received good acceptances and entries for all the events that have, so far, closed. Out of seven entrants for the Hurdles, four have accepted; out of 13 weighted for the Bay of Plenty Handicap—the principal item of the card—10 have paid up; and the general entries read as under:—Maiden Plate 7, Settler's Plate the same number, and Ladies' Purse also 7.

CANTERBURY JOCKEY CLUB'S SUMMER MEETING.

THE entries for this meeting are fairly numerous, but there is a smaller contingent than usual from Dunedin, and the Hon. J. D. Ormond, with North Atlantic and Thame, and Mr F. Martin with Retina, are the only North Islanders represented. I am rather surprised not to find a single Dunedin horse entered in the handicaps, but Mr Mercer has left his two-year-old Beadonwell in the Middle Park Plate. In this latter the further payment has been made for nine, all two-year-olds. Where are the three-year-olds? There are 14 nags entered for the Hornby Welter Handicap, 13 for the Midsummer Handicap, 11 for the Selling Race, and 21 for the Craven Plate.

DUNEDIN JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

IN reviewing the handicap for the Dunedin Cup I pointed out what a bad lot Mr Dowse had had to bring together, and considering their quality, I was hardly prepared, even though the veteran had made a good handicap, to find 11 accept. This number has, however, since been reduced by one owing to Dilemma being scratched for all engagements at the meeting. The top weight Occident, who won last year, has been eliminated, which leaves Prime Warden, 8.11, at the head of affairs. In reviewing the handicap I expressed the opinion that the distance is a bit above the compass of the brother to Sultan, and to that opinion I adhere, though I must at the same time state that he is a bit better class than the majority of those engaged, and I also observe that his stable have taken Saracen out, and are therefore content to rely on him alone. Clanranald, 8.7, is another that has not hitherto shown a partiality for a distance of ground, but it must not be forgotten that his connections backed him for a lot of money for the New Zealand Cup. He went wrong, though, at the end of the winter, and did not see the post. Cruchfield, 8.0, is much more to my liking. He was a good three-year-old, and Ted Cutts (who has had charge of him ever since he first went into training) has patched him up since when he had a very suspicious leg, and has won good races with him. He may now score with him once more, and no victory would be more popular than that of the "blue and gold chequers" of Mr G. H. Clifford, who, though a staunch supporter of the game, has not had a decent one lately carrying his colours. I don't care for Scot Free at 7.9, but at the weight—7.6—I like Crown Jewel. She has not, however, run at all well this season, and at Hororata the other day, when a warm favourite for the Cup, she was badly beaten, and afterwards met with defeat by her solitary opponent in the Consolation. If Butler happens to "nick" her on the day I think she will have a big show judging by her form of last season, but on this season's form she cannot be in it. I hardly know what to make of Thame, 7.5. Here is another member of the weaker sex who has shown that she can stay, but she has lately done nothing, and still her owner keeps paying up for her. Perhaps the hon. gentleman thinks that in such a weak field anything may get home, and therefore he thinks it good to take the risk of a further payment, in which perhaps he is right. I will not have Captive at 7.1, but the fact of Awarua Rose, 7.0, being paid up for would lead one to infer that he has recovered from the injury he met with in the New Zealand Cup race, and, if so, he will be handy on the day. He has a

nice handy weight, and the distance should not stop him. In him and Cruchfield—who are both owned in entirely different interests—Ted Cutts has a nice pair to handle. What a smile of satisfaction will oer'spread the burly veteran's features should he have the satisfaction of leading either one of them back to scale a winner, for does not Mr H. Redwood, his oldest master, own the "Rose," while Mr Clifford, for whom he has won so many races, notably with Stonyhurst, owns Cruchfield. With Occident taken out, Tempest, 6.11, is the only representative of Mr J. Stephenson's local stable, and this erratic lady will, I am afraid, find a mile and a quarter of the journey quite enough for her. Wyvern, 6.9, I discard, and at present, presuming he will stand a preparation, I like Cruchfield best. The final payments are not due till the 20th prox., so we can afford to "bide a wee."

Mr Dowse's adjustment for the Publicans' Handicap, 7 furlongs, has met with the good acceptance of 17. Two Aucklanders, The Workman and Quadrant, have gone out, but we are still represented by Loch Ness and another North Islander whose name is seen in North Atlantic. If this colt should come back to his two-year-old form he will be very dangerous. Hippomenes, 8.11, now heads the list, and as I have often pointed out this brother to Regel takes a lump of doing over a short course. I do not care for Cruchfield, 8.7, Morpheus, 8.7, or Kulnine, 8.5, but I have a bit of respect for Vogengang, 8.4. This colt was a rattling good two-year-old, and though he went off before New Zealand Cup time he managed, though a bit off, to run second to Quadrant in the Farewell Handicap at the same meeting, when Quadrant was conceding him but 1lb. I thought Sheenon would have paid up for him in the Cup but as he has not done so I like his chance all the better in the Publicans'. Loch Ness, 8.2, was one I selected when the weights appeared; and another I took to be well in was Lady Zetland, who ran second in the same race last year with 1lb less, but, as I remarked "since then she has been to Australia, and I fancy the knocking about has been a bit detrimental to her." She may be all right for aught I know at present, and if so she will run well forward, but the stable have another representative in Saracen, 7.7. This colt is rather of the "soft" order, I think, judging by his running. He shouldn't be so, for he is bred "as hard" as the proverbial "nails," being by Chester's brother St. George out of Sir Modred's half-sister Fair Nell. However, he has shown a weak spot on more than one occasion when the money has been on, and he may do so again. I would sooner stand Lady Zetland than him if it came to a pinch and they were running in different interests. I expressed a partiality, when I reviewed the weights, for Heather Bell, 7.2, and I see she remains in, and I think she holds safe all those below her. If asked at the point of the bayonet at the present moment to select a trio to furnish the winner I should pick Hippomenes, Vogengang and Heather Bell. There is no further acceptance for this event I may remark.

Entries for four of the minor events of the meeting also closed on Thursday night, with the following results:—Hurdle Race, 11; Tally-ho Handicap, 9; Hurdles (3rd day), 9; Stewards' Welter, 26. The weights for the first day's Hurdles and Stewards' Purse are due on the 3rd prox.

A curious history attaches to Two Up, which won the Villiers Stakes with the greatest of ease at Randwick during the holidays. According to a Wagga Wagga exchange, he was bought originally for £9, and carried a shearer's pack about the country, winning a hack race here and there. Two Up, while carrying the pack, was once offered to a publican for 30s. and the pack thrown in. The publican refused the offer, and remarked that he would be sorry to give a "caser" for the "moke."

A statement has been prepared showing the amount of money won at Sydney race meetings during 1892. Altogether the prizes distributed reach the value of £90,039, of which £65,709 went to support the legitimate sport of horse racing, and £24,330 was disbursed for trotting and pony and galloway meetings. The Australian Jockey Club heads the list with £35,413, then comes Rosehill with £8,545, of which the sum of £3,015 was given to pony and galloway winners; Moorefield, £7,790 (£3,555 for ponies and galloways); Canterbury Park, £6,980 (£2,945 for trotting and pony and galloway racing); Warwick Farm, £6,625 (£2,625 for small horses); Sydney Driving Park, £5,000 (trotting, pony, and galloway racing); Tattersall's Club, £4,975; Sydney Turf Club, £4,921; Lillie Bridge (pony racing and trotting), £3,990; Hawkesbury Race Club, £2,600; Liverpool (horses, ponies, and galloways), £2,370; Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales (trotting), £400; Botany Pony Club, £300; and New South Wales Trotting Club, newly-established, £130.