

all probability, have had a race out of him in the Egmont Handicap.

With the second day's events it is impossible for me to deal, as the weights are not due till the evening of the first day's racing. I wish the Club every favour from the clerk of the weather, and then I am sure they will have a very successful gathering.

ROTORUA RACES.

This annual fixture is set down for this day week the 16th inst., and the weights for the two principal events will be found in another column.

There are eight engaged in the Hurdle Handicap of 25 sovs, 2 miles, with Tupara at the head of the list at 11.10. I like Yum Yum better with 5lb advantage from the top weight, and I also have a respect for Viceroy at 9.7. I take Yum Yum and Viceroy to supply the winner between them.

There are 10 weighted for the Rotorua Jockey Club Handicap of 30 sovs, 2 miles. Here again Tupara is top weight, 9.3 being now his impost. Try Fluke comes next at 9.0, and this horse showed himself in form by winning a double at the Bay of Plenty Meeting, and if in the same form I hardly see what is to beat him again unless it be Caprice, 7.12. The acceptances, together with entries for the other items of the programme, close to-night.

WANGANUI JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

MR. EVETT issued his handicaps on Wednesday for the first day's racing at the Wanganui Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting, but I do not intend to make any very lengthy comments on them, seeing that the Egmont Racing Club's Meeting intervenes between now and the date of acceptance. In the Wanganui Cup, of a mile and three quarters, Mr. Evett has certainly flattered Merganser, and at 9.0 I shall be much surprised if her owner does not have a cut in. I think 3lb more on the mare would not have hurt the handicap. Whisper at 8.7 would have a chance if in her old form, but I understand she has been retired from racing. I don't care for Cruchfield at 8.4, but I like Retina at 8.0. Of the trio in at 7.12—Fraternite, Rosefeldt and Queen of Trumps—I like Rosefeldt, for Fraternite is under suspicion of unsoundness, and I fancy the distance is a bit further than Queen of Trumps cares for. Then going down the list I like Brigand at 7.8, but I am in the dark as to what condition the little fellow is in. I prefer Thame at 7.5 to St. Katherine with 1lb more, though the latter is not out of it. Crown Jewel is given a big show at 7.4, but I hardly think Mr. Butler's mare is herself. Below her Awarua Rose, 7.0, and Musket at 6.9 are the only pair I care for. But I think Merganser is class enough to win, and Rosefeldt and Brigand, if landed at the post fit and well, may prove her most dangerous antagonists.

The Spy's absence from the racing track for some time has not caused Mr. Evett to forget him, and he has certainly been a bit too hard on him in giving him 12.0 in the First Hurdle Handicap of two miles and a distance. Of the top weights I like best Paradox at 10.10, but Kaimanawa is well used at 10.4, and Odd-fellow at 9.7 also strikes my eye.

As many horses are engaged in the Flying and Welter Handicaps that have previous engagements to fulfil I will refrain from commenting on these adjustments.

CANTERBURY JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

THE entries for three of the principal handicaps at this meeting, which comes off on Saturday and Monday, April 1 and 3, closed on Friday night. The results are not, however, very satisfactory, for the Great Easter Handicap and Great Autumn Handicap total up 5 less than last year, while the Steeplechase entry is a poor one. However, there is a good acceptance of 14 for the Champagne Stakes.

Among the 44 entered for the Great Easter Handicap—which total is one more than last year—are St. Hippo and The Dancer, whose names I was very surprised to find in the list considering the valuable engagements the former is entered for at the Australian Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting, which comes off at the same time. The other North Island entries are Fraternite, The Workman, Merganser, North Atlantic, Thame, Queen of Trumps, Retina, Scot Free,

Durus, Chris, Ua, Dreamland and Sword-belt. Doubtless some of these have been entered because they are in the valuable Challenge Stakes to be run at the same meeting. Last year's winner Hippomenes is also in the list, and one noticeable fact is that Florrie has been entered by Mr D. O'Brien, which would lead one to believe that after she has been raced at the Victoria Racing Club's Autumn Meeting she will be brought back to the land of her birth.

There are 32 nominations for the mile and a-half Great Autumn Handicap, which is 6 less than last year's entry. Here, again, we find St. Hippo, and the North Island is further represented by Fraternite, Merganser, North Atlantic, Thame, Queen of Trumps, Retina, Revolution, Scot Free, Rosefeldt, Ua and Boulanger. The trio that filled the places last year—Prime Warden, Palliser and Merrie England—are all entered.

The dearth of steeplechasers now is evidenced by only eight horses being entered for the Steeplechase. Among them is the "crack" Norton and Mr D. O'Brien's Freeman, who has been for some time now in Australia, and has not been by any means a success there.

As I have mentioned above there are 14 left in the Champagne Stakes, which is extremely satisfactory. Beadonwell, Loyalty, Strowan, Reflector and Westmere are all good winners, and curiosity will be evinced over the running of Mr E. Cutts' colt Lake Shell, who is half-brother to Pygmalion and Cynisca.

The weights for the Great Easter Handicap, Great Autumn Handicap and Kildare Steeplechase are due on the 11th prox., and in the two first at least Mr Henry has some puzzling tackle to work on. However, I doubt not he will be equal to the occasion.

OTAHUHU TROTTING CLUB'S SUMMER MEETING.

THIS meeting will be held at the customary rendezvous, Potter's Paddock, Epsom, on Saturday next, when a programme of seven races, with added money to the tune of 250sovs, will be got off. The acceptances, taken all round, are very satisfactory, and the Club should have a good attendance and good sport.

The Maiden Trot of 35sovs, two miles, which opens the ball, has ten acceptors. Events of this description are rather hard to pick, but I fancy that Major 20sec, and Disappointment, 20sec, are the most worthy of support.

The Maiden Pony Handicap of 20sovs, five furlongs, presents another puzzle with its 17 acceptors, and the absence of only three shows that Messrs E. D. Halstead and W. Adams made a good job of the adjustment. I think the final issue will be fought out between Helena, 8.10, and Pearl, 8.9, and of the pair I have most preference for Pearl.

Out of 14 handicapped for the chief event of the day, the Otahuhu Trotting Cup of 65sovs, three miles, nine have cried content. It will be particularly interesting to see how Yum Yum shapes from the scratch mark under her new ownership. Next to her on the list comes Little Ben, 33sec, who won the Auckland Trotting Club's Cup of the same distance with 53sec. Ike was then third, giving Little Ben 3sec and Fairy split the pair. Now Little Ben gives Ike 15sec, at which I think Ike has all the best of it. Nellie had 36sec in the same trot, when she finished unplaced, but I have an idea that she was only going in the interests of Fairy, the favourite, and therefore I think that with 13sec between her and Ike she is entitled to a good deal of respect. Without discussing the chances of the others, of whom Peggy, 53sec, seems to me to be most dangerous, I shall divide my suffrages between Nellie and Ike, with Ike for choice.

There is actually only one absentee from the Flying Stakes of 30sovs, six furlongs, which leaves 15 acceptors. Some have an early engagement in the Maiden Pony Race, so perchance the field may be diminished ere the time of starting. All in, I divide my vote between Rodney, 8.0, and Dove, 7.10, with a preference for Dove.

The acceptance of half-a-dozen for the Harness Trot of 40sovs, two miles and a-half, looks small, but it must in justice to the handicappers be mentioned that there were only nine entrants. I fancy Rambuster, 37sec, who will be a fresh nag, but Ike, with 16sec, should be dangerous if not penalised for winning previously.

There is only one defection out of the eight handicapped for the Handicap Hurdles of 30sovs, one mile and a half. With all her 11.7 I think whatever beats Minnie Grey will win, and perhaps she

will find her most dangerous opponent in Pearl, with the minimum of 8.7.

The entries for the Electric Trot Handicap of 30sovs, one mile, which is the concluding item of the card, were not numerous, and there are only 5 acceptors. The distance should just suit Yum Yum, and though she has to give 22sec to the limit horse I shall take her to win.

The privileges of the meeting were submitted to auction by Mr D. Tonks on Friday. The right of gates was purchased by Mr S. C. Caulton for £30, and at the same figure Mr Tooman secured the publicans' booth. The Scott Printing Co. gave £8 for the right of the cards.

Turf Topics.

[By "SIR LAUNCELOT."]

Wolsey, who is a three-year old half-brother to Mr J. McNicol's stallion Gipsy King, won the District Handicap of 20sovs, one mile, at Tuapeka (Otago) on the 25th ult., beating three opponents. In the principal event, the Lawrence Handicap of 50sovs, one mile and a quarter, he carried 8.8 into third place behind Paramu, 8.3, and Ben, 9.2. Paramu is a North Island bred one, being by Puriri out of Mystery, and was bought by H. Goodman a few months back. Previous to the victory mentioned he had annexed the Publicans' Handicap of 30sovs, 6 furlongs. On the second day of the meeting Wolsey, with 8.10, was only beaten a head by Mariner, 8.12, in the Tuapeka County J.C. Handicap of 50sovs, one mile and a half.

A private telegram from Christchurch informs me that at the Canterbury Trotting Club's Meeting on Thursday last, the Telegraph Handicap Trot of 40sovs (in harness), one mile, was won by Fairy, 10sec, paying a dividend of £2 18s. This is the mare who ran second to Little Ben in the Auckland Trotting Cup, and was afterwards taken South by B. Edwards.

Scot Free and Loch Ness have arrived in Dunedin.

The St. George—Escalade colt, which is the property of Mr A. R. Blackwood, of Melbourne, was sent from Christchurch to the Victorian capital last week. His dam Escalade is half-sister to that good sire Vanguard, and full sister to Mr T. Morrin's mare Rose and Black, while the colt's sire St. George is a full brother to that mighty stallion Chester.

The yearling brother to the well-performed Beadonwell by St. Clare—Dione, met with a fatal injury in Dunedin the other day.

By the time these lines appear in print the chaser Freeman will have arrived back in Christchurch from Melbourne, his owner, Mr D. O'Brien, having decided that he shall return to his native land.

My confrere "Castor," of the *Canterbury Times*, points out that in chronicling the death of the brood mare Fleurange I fell into a slight error in saying that her foal of 1884 by Apremont died from injuries received as a yearling. "Castor" says that the youngster was purchased by Mr J. C. N. Grigg, of Longbeach, Ashburton, was named Montrose, and was used at the stud at Longbeach for a year or two.

From England comes news of the death, on December 14, of Mrs Cannon, the wife of Tom Cannon, the famous English trainer and rider, after a long illness. Mrs Cannon was a daughter of the late John Day, and leaves behind a large family, including T. Cannon, jun., to whom is entrusted the training of the Danebury horses, while the second son, Mornington, has for two years headed the list of winning jockeys in England.

They are keeping their jockeys "up to the collar" very strictly in England, as witness the following notifications in a recent issue of the *English Racing Calendar*:—"The stewards of the Jockey Club give notice that licences are only granted to jockeys on condition that they are not owners or part owners of any racehorse. Leave may be given, under exceptional circumstances, on special application, to jockeys to own one or more horses, but this permission will only be granted when the jockey is also a trainer, and the horse is to be trained in his own stable. The stewards of the Jockey Club, observing that many jockeys have been in the habit of betting on horse-racing, and of receiving presents in connection with races from persons other than the owner of the horse they ride in such races, give notice that such practices will not be tolerated, and that any jockey who may be proved to their satisfaction to have any interest in any racehorse, or to have been engaged in any betting transaction, or otherwise to have disregarded this notice, will have his license at once withdrawn. Any persons knowingly acting in the capacity of part owner or trainer of any horse in which a jockey possesses an interest, or making any bet with, or on behalf of, any jockey, or otherwise aiding or abetting in any breach of the orders of the stewards, will be warned off Newmarket Heath."

It will be news to most people in England (says the *London Sportsman*) to learn that Ormonde was raced after his arrival in South America; but such was the case, and he was not unnaturally beaten, which is a pity, as he can no longer claim an unbeaten record; but his defeat detracted nothing from his fame, even in the eyes of local connoisseurs, who probably had sense enough to know that a horse after two stud seasons and a terrible dose of Newmarket fever could not be expected ever again to show his true form on a racecourse.

When Paddy was put up to auction after winning the Selling Race at Caulfield, a somewhat wordy contest ensued between his trainer, C. Rudings, and the auctioneer, who refused to take the former's bid of a sovereign advance, insisting on a spring of a fiver. Eventually Mr Yuille had to give way, and Paddy found another proprietor in Mr Cassweller, who once before owned him, at 130sovs, and the old son of Anteros joins J. O'Neill's team at Frankston.

By Thursday's mail from Melbourne full accounts were to hand of the victory of Stern-chaser, 7.9, in the Anniversary Handicap of 250 sovs, one mile and three furlongs, run at the Victoria Amateur Turf Club's Meeting on the 21st ult. As we have already learnt by cable, Dramatist, 7.7, and Marco, 7.0, were respectively second and third to him, and my files show that the other runners were Annesley 8.12, Litigant 8.8, Clonard 8.5, Gresford 8.5, Norbert 8.4, Yarran 7.12, Ducrow 7.12, Taurus 7.6, Competency 7.4, Eurus 7.1, Investment 6.12, Grand-like 6.8, Maggie 6.8, Jack 6.8, and Bulletin 6.7. Clonard was favourite at 5 to 1 agst, the others well backed being Norbert 6 to 1, Taurus 6 to 1, Annesley 7 to 1, and Marco 7 to 1, while Stern-chaser was supported slightly at 10 to 1. White had the mount on Mr Gollan's colt. Immediately the flag fell Stern-chaser went away with several lengths lead, the most prominent of the others being Ducrow, Marco, Ballater, and Competency, with Maggie, who had been left at the post, last. The New Zealander still held the lead out of the straight, with Ballater next, and then came Ducrow, Competency, Gresford, and Dramatist. The same order was observed at the mile post, but Ballater afterwards went to the front, and soon took up a four lengths' lead from Stern-chaser, with Ducrow and Clonard, who had made up a lot of ground, next; then came Taurus in the vicinity, with Competency and Marco still prominent. Along the railway side Stern-chaser and Clonard divided the lead, with Marco next, and following the pair were Dramatist, Taurus, Ducrow, Norbert, and Litigant all close up. Stern-chaser held the lead to the end, and won comfortably from Dramatist by two lengths, Marco the same distance away third. Taurus was fourth and Maggie last. The time was 2min 23sec. Cusdin rode Litigant in the race.

At this same V.A.T.C. Anniversary Meeting Ringmaster's sister Zeph, 8.11, won the Holiday Stakes of 100sovs, five furlongs, for two-year-olds, beating a field of ten. The New Zealander Whitefoot, with 9.5, was third to Larry II., 11.1, and Victim, 9.6, in the Hurdles, one mile and a-half. Tayforth, 9.12 was among the starters. The aged Paddy, with 7.3 in the saddle, easily landed the odds of 5 to 1 (!) laid on him to beat Sardo, 6.10, and Mercy Merrick, 6.12, in the Selling Race of 150sovs, five furlongs. He was bought by Mr Crassweller for 130sovs. Culloden, 7.8, ridden by White, was unplaced in the Toowonga Handicap of 100sovs, six furlongs, won by Mr J. Leek's four-year-old mare Lysia, 7.1, the Newmarket Handicap candidates Fortunatus, The Harbour Light, The Seine, and Lily being unplaced with 9.2, 7.13, 7.6, and 7.6 respectively. Freeman had 12.5 in the Steeplechase, and fell in the second round. The race produced a lot of comment, because it was plain that all of the competitors—if not all—had waiting orders, for none of them would set a pace. Ægyptian, 11.10, eventually won by half-a-dozen lengths from Blue and White, 11.2, who had divided favouritism with Islander, 11.5. The stewards held an inquiry into the running of Islander, with the result that Barbour, his rider was disqualified for twelve months; R. Sevier, the trainer, for two years; E. Levy, the alleged owner, for life; and the horse for life. Keating, the rider of Blue and White, was also severely cautioned for suspicious riding.

In commenting on the above-mentioned victory of Sternchaser "Hampton," in the *Sporting Standard* says:—"Barring the Oaks, won by Tirailleur, and the V.R.C. Hurdle Races, won by Kimberley, this race was the first big event in which Mr Gollan's colours have been carried to the fore, and perhaps the run of bad luck that has pursued the stable may now have ended. The trainer, Percy Martin, who has made many friends here, was congratulated upon his success. White, whose riding has been frequently criticised, perhaps without much reason, certainly gave no cause for complaint by the manner in which he handled Sternchaser, and displayed capital judgment in not chasing Ballater when the latter was attempting to cut the throats of the field. After the race Sternchaser was very lame indeed, but it is said this was caused by a splint from which he suffers, and that it would wear away in the course of time. By his victory he incurs a 10lb penalty for the Australian Cup, and if Martin can give him the necessary preparation he is sure to come in for support in this event. Marco ran better than he has done before, and displayed a very bold front a furlong from home. Up to this stage Taurus also ran well, but failed when pressure was applied. Clonard and Norbert also ran well, and Ducrow appeared in a much more prominent position than he did in the Bagot. Yarran, however, was never in the hunt, and the strong pace in the early part of the race settled any chance Annesley might have had, for he was too sore to get going. Sternchaser gave a lot of trouble at the start, and lashed out in all directions, several horses coming in for his attentions. On returning to scale, Grandlike, whom he had landed on the shoulder, was walking with a decided limp."

The Sydney *Referee* of the 25th ult. contains what purports to be a likeness of St. Hippo. But, oh, what a likeness! However, the paper in question states:—"The above is an excellent portrait of the celebrated New Zealand horse St. Hippo drawn from life by our own artist. St. Hippo arrived from New Zealand in the Warrimoo on Friday in charge of G. Wright, who has trained him for all his races. The son of St. Leger—Hippona is a magnificent horse to look at. He is powerfully built, and, as far as appearances go, should be capable of carrying any reasonable amount of weight. He has grand quarters, a powerful back and loins, and splendid shoulders. He has plenty of substance about him, but does not look at all heavy. The voyage does not appear to have done him any harm, and he stepped along the wharf with a jaunty stride, as though he was glad to feel himself on land again. The horse boxes on the Warrimoo, the splendid new steamer of Messrs. Huddard, Parker and Co.'s line, are the best we have seen on an inter-colonial boat. They are padded all round with mattresses, and the flooring is covered several inches thick with the best matting, which makes it soft for the horses. There is ample room to lie down, and there can be very little danger of any injury to the horses, even in rough weather. Wright expressed himself as delighted with the accommodation provided. St. Hippo has gone on to Melbourne to take part in the V.R.C. Autumn Meeting, where he is engaged in the St. Leger, Newmarket Handicap and Australian Cup. He should render a great account of himself, even with the big weights he has got to carry."