

not as well forward as he might be, he is not by any means on the sick list. Therefore I should advise backers not to entirely disregard him. Strowan, 7.11, is entitled to the greatest of respect, and so will Skirmisher, 7.9, be if he come to the post, but I do not look on that as a very probable contingency. I think we may eliminate the C.J.C. Welcome Stakes winner from the list. The chances of Westmere and Strowan will be better estimated after their Champagne battle, but I think Mr Paul's colt will hold his own with the best of them. Unless it be Zanella, 7.2, or Lake Shell, 6.13, I don't see that any of the light-weighted two-year-olds can beat Strowan and Westmere, and both these youngsters will have had a previous opportunity of getting their strength gauged through Strowan and Westmere in the Champagne. The Workman; the best of Mr Stead's trio, which I take to be Strowan; Westmere and Lake Shell seem to me the quartette most likely to fight it out, and with the uncertainty as to what penalties may be incurred over the first day's racing, I think it wisest to indicate my opinion that whatever beats THE WORKMAN will win.

"Spectator," of the *Weekly Press*, who somehow is generally pretty well informed about the inmates of Mr Stead's stable, says in his last week's notes:—"Owing to Reflector having contracted a cold, Mr Stead did not pay up for him in the Champagne or Challenge Stakes, or, indeed, for any of his C.J.C. Autumn engagements." Commenting on the acceptances for the Great Easter Handicap, the same scribe says:—"As for Stepniak, I saw that colt as late as Saturday, and without knowing aught of the intention of his owner, I should say that Mason is likely to have the son of Nordenfeldt and Steppe ready to fulfil any engagement that he may be wanted for, as he has apparently got him over the trouble which striking himself at work at the C.J.C. Meeting occasioned. Melinite, in the same stable, looks like one that has not been idle, and though she appeared to me to have trained light, as many of the Nordenfeldt's do, I would not be surprised to see her run a better race than she did in the Craven Stakes, if the elect of the stable on the day for this particular journey."

#### DUNEDIN JOCKEY CLUB'S MAY MEETING.

The Dunedin Jockey Club received excellent entries on Friday last for the two principal items of their May Meeting, which is set down for Wednesday, May 24 (Queen's Birthday), and Saturday, May 27. There are 26 entered for the Birthday Handicap of 300sovs, one mile and a half, and 30 for the Provincial Handicap of 250sovs, one mile and a quarter. Mr Paul has engaged Boulanger and Cretonne, and I also notice The Dancer in the list. These are the North Island contingent, but several of the best South Islanders are there, including Stepniak, Prime Warden, Tempest, Hippomenes, Lustre, Whakawatea, Heather Bell, Kulnine, Merrie England, Saracen and Vogengang.

The weights for the Birthday Handicap are due on May 2.

#### SOUTH AUCKLAND RACING CLUB.

The weights for the South Auckland Racing Club's Autumn Meeting on Saturday week, the 8th inst., have been declared by Mr E. D. Halstead, and owners are reminded that Saturday next is acceptance night.

To take the events in the order in which they appear on the programme I come first of all to the Easter Handicap, 6 furlongs. Waltzer is top weight with 8.5, Mr Halstead evidently retaining a lively recollection of the way he performed on the same course in the spring time. I think both Orini at 7.9, and Acacia, 7.8, especially the latter, hold Helen McGregor safe, and among the lower weights Minnie, 7.2, seems to me most dangerous. But, all in, I take Waltzer and Acacia to fight it out.

Isidore could not but be top weight in the Hurdle Handicap of 35sovs, 2 miles, and 10.10 is not too much to ask him to carry in such company, but I like New Year better with a stone in hand from him; and this is the horse I expect to win.

The Autumn Handicap of 55sovs, one mile and a half (which is the principal event of the meeting on the flat) has Ingorina top weight at 8.12. Ida's victories at Papakura have helped her into second place with 8.10, and Lady Belle follows them with 11lb less than Ida. Folly,

7.10, seems to me well in, and though the distance is perhaps slightly outside Marguerite's compass she may get a decent mile and a half with 7.0, but I take the top weight to beat the lot if he accept.

After the Novel Race (entries for which close on Saturday) the Cambridge Stakes Handicap of 20sovs, one mile, will engage attention. The result depends in a great measure on what is started for the Easter Handicap, and the same remarks apply to the Claudelands and Flying Handicaps, but I may say a few words about the Steeplechase Handicap of 55sovs, 3 miles. Mr Halstead has rightly given Yum Yum the post of honor at 11.0, but has not unduly crushed her at that, and if she is beaten I think New Year, 9.9, will be her conqueror.

#### TURANGANUI NATIVE JOCKEY CLUB.

The Gisborne sporting folk will, on Easter Monday, be able to enjoy themselves at the meeting of the Turanganui Jockey Club, on the Poverty Bay Park Co.'s course. The lists of acceptances appearing in another column show that excellent acceptances have been received for four of the handicaps of the programme, there being five out of six left in the Hurdles, seven out of ten in the Tairawhite Handicap, eight out of twelve in the Maori Race, and eleven out of thirteen in the Easter Handicap.

#### AUCKLAND RACING CLUB'S AUTUMN.

The weather at the time of writing is so beautifully fine that it seems as if the clerk of the weather—who is always an all-important factor in the calculation of Racing Clubs—were going to hold off his watering pot during Saturday and Monday next, when the Auckland Racing Club bring off their Autumn Meeting. Let us hope his good temper will not have changed on Saturday morning.

The response to Mr Evett's adjustments for the Easter and Steeplechase Handicaps, which owners made on Tuesday night, was very gratifying; the Champagne acceptance of 8 was more than was expected; and with the exception of the Selling Handicap the nominations for the minor events, though not totalling as high as last year, were nevertheless satisfactory.

It is rather awkward that the exigencies of publishing necessitate my writing these lines before I see the weights for the Tradesmen's Plate, Hurdle Handicap, Eden Handicap, Onslow Stakes Handicap, and Selling Handicap, which were due last night, and which will appear on another page of this issue.

The Tradesmen's Plate, which is a handicap run over a mile and a distance, opens the ball, and then comes the

#### NORTHERN CHAMPAGNE STAKES

of 200sovs, added to a sweepstake of 10sovs each, 5sovs forfeit, 6 furlongs. The eight acceptors include winners in Pegasus, Royal Rose, Eve, Noyade and Captivity; but the only one of these that has incurred a penalty is Pegasus, who has to put up 7lb extra owing to his winning the Auckland Welcome Stakes last November. With the five winners mentioned above and the maidens—Stamoor, Mahaki and Cobweb—the contest is bound to be a good betting one. I fancy Pegasus' penalty will stop him, and of all the colts I should take Royal Rose to be the best. Little Eve has certainly had a hard season's campaign of it, but she will appear at the scratch pink enough on Saturday, and she has shown herself such a good one this season that she looks a certainty for a place, if not to win outright. The Napier representative Noyade has shown herself slippery, and if only she, Eve, and Royal Rose were in the race there would still be the materials for plenty of interest. But when to these are added the comparatively untried ones the puzzle is the greater. However, I don't think I shall be far wrong in predicting the victory of Eve, with Noyade second and Royal Rose third.

The big handicap of the day is next on the card in the shape of the

#### EASTER HANDICAP

of 300sovs, one mile and a half. I have not had an opportunity of analysing Mr Evett's weights for this race for the simple reason that they only appeared last Friday. I thought when I saw it that it was a good handicap, though with Impulse at the head at 8.12 I think St. Katherine might have been given 8.9 instead of 8.6. Morion was in his place at 8.2, but, as mentioned in another

column, he has had to seek the "happy hunting grounds" owing to an accident. Brown Alice at 8.0 is a strong tip in some quarters, but I cannot say she is a fancy of mine. Those who stand by her seem to rely too much upon her second to St. Hippo in the Great Northern Derby, without reckoning what she had behind her. Krina has hitherto shown herself partial to a shorter journey than a mile and a half rather than to one of that distance, but I think if Capt. Russell rely on her in preference to St. Katherine she will finish close up. I don't care for Pinfire at 7.10, neither is Coalscuttle with 5lb less to my liking, but I certainly look to both Tulloch and Ida, who are in on level terms—7.3—to be about when the whips are cracking. The nine acceptors conclude with the name of Retaliation, who, even with the minimum, doesn't seem to me to have a chance, even if she run up to her best form. Before committing myself to a tip, I may as well mention in justice to Mr Evett that there were only seven absentees from his handicap, and of these Morion is dead; Brigand is at home at Gisborne; Dishonor has only just been taken up; Pani and Loch Ness were racing in Napier the other day in bad form; Durus is at Wanganui; and Lady Belle's present form did not warrant her owners in paying up for her. As between Impulse, Captain Russell's pair Tulloch and Ida, it should be a splendid race, but my vote goes for TULLOCH.

For the other four events of the day, viz., the Hurdles, Selling Handicap, Eden Handicap, and Onslow Stakes Handicap, the weights are not to hand at the time of writing, so I pass on to the

#### STEEPLECHASE HANDICAP

of 200sovs, about three miles and a quarter, to be decided on the second day—Easter Monday. Mr Evett has indeed great reason to be proud of the acceptance for this, for only Aorere and Carronade are missing, and Carronade would have been accepted with but for a mistake on the part of the gentleman entrusted with the task of paying up for him. When will some owners and trainers learn to do their business for themselves? That Mangare's performance in the Steeplechase at Papakura was a great one nobody will deny, nor will it be gainsaid that on his form this season he is a class above those now pitted against him. But 12.10 is a big burden to carry up and down the stiff inclines of the Ellerslie steeplechase course, and though I expect Mr Paul's horse to run well I don't think he will win. I like Fishmonger's chance at 1.7, but Isidore, 10.4, is not a fancy of mine. There have been a lot of rumours in the air lately about Union Jack, 10.0—a horse that I have seen run well on the flat in Canterbury. He is a decent-class welter-weight horse, but whether he has had sufficient schooling at the "illegitimate" game to get him over our steeplechase course I cannot say. I think Neli, at 9.11, and Yum Yum, at 9.10, both hold Kate, 9.7, and Flukem, 9.7, safe, and I've a special fancy for Yum Yum. In the endeavour to make a place selection I shall select Yum Yum, Fishmonger and Neli to finish in that order.

The Tradesmen's Plate entries number 7, the Hurdles 12, the Selling Handicap 5, Eden Handicap 16, Onslow Handicap 9, Stewards' Handicap 12, Ellerslie Handicap 12, Shorts Handicap 18, Welter Handicap 12, and Flying Handicap 20.

His Excellency the Governor, Lady Glasgow and Lady Hopetoun and the Government House party have signified their intention of being present on Easter Monday.

The train arrangements for both days are advertised in another portion of this issue.

#### Napier Park Races.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

FIRST DAY. — WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22.

There was fine weather experienced for the first day's racing at Napier Park, and there was a large attendance.

The Trial Handicap Hurdles was the first event to engage attention. Owing to accidents Criminal and Tontine could not start, and Tim was scratched. Worth was a pronounced favourite, Sir Tatton being next fancied. At the fall of the flag, Worth was first away and got over the first hurdle, after which he was pulled back. At the scraping sheds the order was Warrigal, Sir Tatton, and T Rose, with Gladiole last, jumping badly. At the hurdle in the straight Risk fell. In front of the stand for the first time Warrigal still led the field, with T Rose

lying second, Sir Tatton close up third, Worth fourth, Shearer and Gladiole next. At the back T Rose had command, but Worth's head was let loose, and he went up to her, and was not long before he had wrested the lead from her. Before the next hurdle was negotiated Sir Tatton commenced to go up. In the turn he had got closer to the leaders, and at the scraping sheds had passed T Rose and was near Worth. He made a great effort to pass Mr Ormond's horse, who, however, was jumping well, and was first over the last jump. It looked a moral, but Sir Tatton came with a great run on the flat, and getting closer and closer just suffered defeat by half a length only. T Rose was a good third, Shearer fourth, Gladiole next and Warrigal (who won a couple of hack hurdle races in Poverty Bay and one at Wairoa) last. The time registered was 3min 35 3-5th sec, and the dividend £2 6s.

The Sapling Stakes saw eight two-year-olds don colours, and Norsemaid was made favourite, Zanella being next in demand, and the top weight Noyade third on the list. Zanella, Pinrose, and Norsemaid were the first off the mark, and the first-named, who had the inside running, took command. In the turn Mr Rathbone's filly still had a slight lead, and she seemed to come away at the scraping sheds. Norsemaid was coming well on the outside, and in the straight looked decidedly dangerous. Donovan on Zanella kept his mount at it, however, and she came on and won by half-a-length from Norsemaid, who ran a good mare. Noyade could only get third. The rest were some distance behind, Allanadale being last. Time, 1min 6 3-5th sec. Dividend, £3 4s.

In the Napier Cup Handicap, the scratchings were Rosefeldt, Krina, Maid of Lorne, and Stockfish. After a short delay the field formed into line, and Queen of Trumps was the quickest away when the flag fell Muriwai's rider, owing to some cause or other, fell off his mount, and she took no part in the race. When the grandstand was reached the grey horse Pani was in front, with Crackshot lying next. Then came Queen of Trumps, Scot Free. St. Katherine, Musket, and Merganser, all close up, with Musketeer a bad last. This horse appeared to be out paced. At the turn Crackshot, whose leg appeared very big, went to the front. At the back there seemed to be a rush to get the lead, which was secured by Queen of Trumps. She was galloping well, and some thought she would stay there. Pani was close up, as also was Scot Free, followed by Free Lance. In the turn Boulanger commenced to go up, and Merganser improved her position. When the straight was reached and Merganser closed up it was all over, for she went on full of lengths. Ua came up very fast in the straight and got second place. Good old Boulanger was third, Scot Free fourth, Queen of Trumps fifth, and Free Lance next, with the rest tailing off. Time, 2min 44sec. Dividend, £3 9s. Merganser's performance was a good one, and the way the daughter of Nordenfeldt and Albatross won made it appear as if the race was a gift to her.

The Second Handicap Hurdles was the next event decided, Empire being favourite. Chester took the field along after Mr Powell sent them on their journey, and he led right round till opposite the stand, where Disturbance and Tiritea were almost together second, Aorere last. Chester and Disturbance raced together at the back, Tiritea lying handy. Empire was in front of Gondolier, Kaimanawa lying next, and Aorere still last. When it came to racing home Tiritea was all there, and coming on won easily from Chester, with Disturbance third. The dividend paid was £7 2s, and the time registered 4min 6sec.

As in the Hurdles seven started for the Redcliffe Stakes Handicap, for which the Nordenfeldt—Spinaker colt Spinfeldt was made favourite, Prairie Grass being next on call. Link was first to move away, but Brown Bell had secured the lead before the back was reached. In the turn Spinfeldt was next to last. Before the sheds were reached the field closed up, and Prairie Grass went to the front. It now seemed all over, but Spinfeldt made an effort to get up on the inside. He could get no nearer than second, however. Link getting third on the post from Water Lily. Jewel and Brown Bell were last. Time, 1min 52sec. Dividend, £3 19s.

Thame, Pani, Link, Spinaway and Haeata were knocked out of the Flying Handicap. Dreamland would not join her horses, and the starter had some trouble with her. Eventually Krina