

After the Hack Hurdle Handicap, the weights for which are not to hand, comes the Thompson Handicap of 250sovs, one mile, for which acceptances close on Monday, and which meanwhile takes a terrible lot of picking. The Workman, 9.3, must have a chance second to none after his second in the Challenge Stakes, and I suppose Boulanger, who is weighted on level terms with him, will also be seen at the post. I shall look for both these top weights to run well forward—indeed one of them may win outright. I like both of them better than Stepiak, 9.2. St. Katherine, 8.9, is hardly like to put in an appearance. When I reviewed the weights last week I mentioned that Whakawatea was not badly in at 8.7, but that it would be as well to wait and see how he shaped in the Challenge Stakes. Well, though he didn't get a shop in that event he ran well up to the home turn, and forcibly demonstrated that he had not yet lost all his two-year-old form. A mile is, perhaps, a bit more than he cares for, but if he be accepted with next Monday I shall keep a watchful eye on him. Retina has been scratched, and I don't like the chance of either Melinite or Thame. I think the Hon. J. D. Ormond has a big chance with Queen of Trumps. I wasn't far out in advocating the claims of Kulinine in the C.J.C. Great Easter Handicap, and with 8.0 he looks to me to be excellently well in now. If Krina, 7.12, goes down she should trouble the best of them. Kulinine's stable companion Cajolery, 7.12, will run well if only in the humour. Swordbelt 7.6, Tulloch 7.6 and Musket 7.0 are my picks among the light weights. To try and pick the placed horses before the acceptances is a rather hard task, but I shall select The Workman, Kulinine and Queen of Trumps to fill the situations, with a preference for Kulinine.

A Hack Handicap is succeeded by the Stewards' Handicap of 70 sovs, one mile and a furlong, in which Boulanger has top weight of 9.0. Several engaged will be seen out earlier in the day in all probability so it is useless for me to go through the list seriatim. Furthermore the winner of the Thompson Handicap incurs a penalty of 5lb. At the weights as they now stand I like Boulanger 9.0, Tulloch 7.2 and Stranger 6.11 best of the lot.

In the Juvenile Handicap of 100 sovs, 6 furlongs, Westmere has top weight, 9.5, and has to give Noyade 8lb. I like Captain Russell's filly, and next to her I should take Busybody with 7.5, though the relative of Whisper seems hardly to run up to the form she displays on the training track.

The Railway Handicap of 60 sovs, 6 furlongs, concludes the first day's sport, and Whakawatea is top weight at 8.11, which shouldn't stop him. However, nearly everything engaged will have started earlier in the day, so I will not endeavour to make any selection.

The following weights were issued last night by Mr Evett:—

TRIAL HANDICAP of 50 sovs. 1 mile. Table with columns for horse names and weights (st lb).

HURDLE HANDICAP of 80 sovs. 1 1/2 miles. Table with columns for horse names and weights (st lb).

STEWARDS' HANDICAP of 70 sovs, 1 mile 1 furlong. Table with columns for horse names and weights (st lb).

JUVENILE HANDICAP of 100 sovs, 3/4 mile. Table with columns for horse names and weights (st lb).

RAILWAY HANDICAP of 60 sovs, 3/4 mile. Table with columns for horse names and weights (st lb).

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J. O. EVETT, Handicapper.

According to a cablegram to the Australasian the Australian sportsman Mr D. Cooper won the Brocklesby Stakes of 500 sovs, five furlongs, at Lincoln, on March 22, with Glare, who is by Ayrshire (winner of the Derby) out of Footlight. The Brocklesby Stakes is the most valuable two-year-old event of the early part of the English racing season.

Woodville District J.C. Autumn Meeting.

(BY WIRE.—FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 3.

THE Woodville Jockey Club races were well attended, but there were a few hundreds less put through the machine than were handled last year. The Stewards' Handicap of 40 sovs, 1 mile, opened the proceedings Jack, 7.8, a son of Foul Play and Queen of Hearts, who won at Wairoa, being a slightly better favourite than Waterlily, 8.12. The winner, however, turned up in Mairua, 6.12, a four year old gelding by Somnus out of Polly who paid £5 10s. The scratchings were Whimsical, Eclipse, Sunlight and Secret.

The Maiden Hurdles of 250sovs, one mile and a-half, proved a good thing for Makomako, who got home easily from Minnie and T Rose, and paid £3 11s. Sailor did not go to the post, and Spot carried a stone over weight.

Makomako, 9.5, also won the big Hurdle Handicap of 450sovs, two miles. The Shearer, 9.5, running second and T Rose, 9.5, third. Sir Tatton, 10.13, ran off. On this occasion Makomako paid £5 11s. Sir Tatton left the paddock a pronounced favourite. Araroa and Barrier did not face the starter.

Nine saddled up for the Maiden Plate of 30sovs, one mile and a-quarter, which went to Mr Denney's Sunlight, by Ascot—Sunshine, who beat Harmony comfortably, and paid £2 15s. Unity ran third.

For the Woodville Jockey Club Handicap of 100 sovs, one mile and a half, Maid of Lorne, Musketeer, Eve, Whimsical, Billy and Brown Bell dropped out. The winner turned up in a half-brother to Norton—Mr T. S. Bristol's Pill, by Souwester—Romp, who carried 7.6 and beat Wheriko 6.7 in the run home. He paid £5 13s. Mr Gollan's Prairie Grass, 8.2, was third. Whereko was favourite, Melas, 8.11, coming next.

Waverley, by Gladiator—Phyllis, had a good thing in the Selling Race of 25 sovs, one mile, easily landing the odds laid on him. Dandy, an erst Gisborne horse, ran second for the Flying Handicap of 50 sovs, 6 furlongs. Whimsical, Dandy, Eve, Brown Bell, Minnie, Sunlight and Secret were scratched. A good race was witnessed between Mairua, 6.12, and Wheriko, 6.7, the former beating Mr Douglas' horse on the post, and paying £4 10s. Mairua thus won the double.

The last race was the High Weight Handicap of 35 sovs, one mile and a quarter, for which Melas, 11.5, and Jack, 10.0, were equal favourites, and Jack succeeded in beating the former and paying £2 3s. The scratchings were Maid of Lorne, Waterlily, T Rose, Billy, Roger, Araroa, Harmony and Papapa. There was a good attendance.

A Record for the Review.

OUR MELBOURNE LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, March 25.

A NUMBER of inquiries have of late been made as to where letters will reach popular professional people at present in New Zealand. As the inquiries have all been made to me I have invariably explained that all letters addressed to the care of the leading New Zealand theatrical and sporting paper, and as this is as the profession here well-know—the SPORTING REVIEW, you will kindly take charge of all letters and see them piloted to their destination on receipt of them. Please notify in your columns that the letters are at your office, and the theatrical people will then forward you stamped addressed envelopes, when you can re-start the letters, papers, and telegrams again on their journey.

"The Melbourne Cup"—George Darrell's very, very latest collection of sensations—is to be produced at the Theatre Royal as the Easter attraction, and as he has secured an excellent all-round company, he confidently looks forward to times of joy and a prosperous season.

Frank Clark still keeps the Alhambra going, and Johnnie Wallace is one of the ablest of stage managers.

The Alexandra Theatre is to be re-opened by the old New Zealanders, Helen and Arthur Vivian with East Lynne, the Hugo Minstrels finding the afterpart of the programme.

Williamson and Musgrove's Royal Princess Comic Opera Company are really the most successful of all Melbourne shows at the time of writing.

Alfred Dampier writes me from Sydney where, since his return from New Zealand, he has been "resting." Now, however, he is to stage his famous "Robbery Under Arms" over in that quarter, Jim Rainford, the alderman, hotelkeeper, and actor, having leased a theatre for Alfred.

Travers Vale writes me from New Zealand ahead of the Stein Combination. Vale is profuse in his compliments regarding the SPORTING REVIEW. But as I presume you do not care to "blow your own trumpet," but let others do it, I pass this lightly over—far off.

From Cologne, too, the Donegan family write me, and state that even there they have come across your paper, a fact, by the way, that should be hailed with rejoicing on the part of the Auckland people who advertise in your columns.

From London, T. V. Twinning (late with Mrs Brown Potter, Kyrle Bellew, and Mrs Alice Shaw) writes me, and amongst other things asks on behalf of himself and the ladies and gentlemen mentioned to be specially remembered through your columns to the play-going public of New Zealand. Further Twinning desires to thank the REVIEW for the kindly mention made in your columns from time to time.

The only music hall of Melbourne doing anything at all is St. George's Hall, and the business of this house is not likely to knock the management silly with success.

Of companies "in the country," one has met with such fearful business that they had to walk back at night by the light of stars. This was a "starring trip" with a vengeance. Another company were refused admission to the local hotels and camped out on the platform of the railway station. This didn't last long, as the station master ordered them off, and when last seen the whole company were tramping Melbournwards along the railway track.

Fred Appleton, an old Australian actor, is about to take a benefit. Carey and Ireland, also old Australians did likewise, and I regret to say with disastrous results. I hope Appleton will fare better.

THE FLAT.

Turf Topics.

[BY "SIR LAUNCELOT."]

On March 15, at Moorfield (Sydney), Antic, with 7.9, was second to Saxon Girl, 10.5, who beat him a length in the Welter Handicap of 60sovs, 5 furlongs. Antic was favourite at 7 to 4 against. There were 21 starters. Tresfeldt, 8.4, was unplaced behind Kiora, 7.7, in the Gallaway Handicap of 70sovs, one mile and a quarter.

At the Hawkesbury (N.S.W.) Autumn Meeting on March 18th there was a good attendance. Mr T. Sampson won the opening event, the Hurdle Handicap of 100sovs, 2 miles, with the four-year-old Windsor, by Hastings—Matilda, 9.5. Mr T. Lamond's nomination King Quail, 9.5, ridden by Nolan, was second. Mr H. Oxenham took the Two Year Old Handicap of 6 furlongs, with Solanum, by Somnus (imp.) out of Tempest's half-sister Blue and White. Solanum is indeed very closely related to Tempe (who is dam of Titan), for Tempe is by Somnus out of Blue and White's dam White and Blue. Our old friend Monaghan was second with Budgerce, and there were 10 other starters. The Rowley Mile Handicap of 150sovs, brought out the following field of 17:—Marvellette 9.7, Tridentine 9.4, Pilot Boy 8.8, Oxenham 8.6, Shamrock 8.6, Cardoness 8.4, Alexander 8.2, Whirlwind 7.10, Aster 7.8, Warwick 7.6, Brooklyn 7.2, Syracuse 7.0, Miletos 6.10, Bright Light 6.9, Melodia 6.9, Agra 6.7, Bodkin 7.7. The betting was 5 to 2 agst Pilot Boy, 3 to 1 Alexander, 5 to 1 Aster, 10 to 1 Oxenham, Marvellette, and Whirlwind. Three furlongs from home Oxenham came with a brilliant run from the centre of the field, and got up with the leaders—who were Shamrock, Aster, and Miletos—just as they rounded the home turn. Shamrock led into the straight, followed closely by Miletos and Oxenham, with Pilot Boy next. Oxenham kept up his run and assumed command at the distance, from which point he came away and won easily by a length from Bodkin, who beat Shamrock a couple of lengths for second place. Pilot Boy was fourth. The time was 1min 44 1/2 sec. Avenge, by Chester out of the Somnus mare Lorraine, won the Public Auction Stakes of 100sovs, 6 furlongs, and Billy Boy, by Goldsbrough—Colima, beat a field of half-a-dozen in the Railway Handicap of 100sovs, once round.

Arquebus, who was supposed to be one of the "J. B. Clark's" good things last spring, has gone into J. E. Brewer's stable at Caulfield.

The programme of the Auckland Racing Club's Winter Meeting is given publicity in the advertising columns of this issue. The dates selected are Saturday, June 3, and Wednesday, June 7. On the first day £550 is to be given away, the chief prize being the Grand National Hurdle Race of 250sovs, 2 miles. £720 is the total of the prize money on the second day, when the piece de resistance is the Great Northern Steeplechase Handicap of 400sovs, about three miles and a half. Nominations for this and the Grand National Hurdle Race close on the 28th instant.

The statement that was recently given publicity to in England to the effect that Ormoude had run in public in South America turns out to be untrue. He was merely taken on to the course for inspection.

The advent of the first of Amphion's stock is announced, as the Duke of Westminster's Rydal has foaled a colt to him, and Mr Keene's Mandate a filly.

It was reported in English sporting circles when the last mail left that Lord Dunraven had been offered 6,000 guineas for L'Abbesse de Jouarre. This looks an extravagant sum, but it must be remembered that the mare is in foal to St. Simon.

Mr H. McCalmont has secured first call of T. Loates' services for this year's racing season in England. Mr Leopold de Rothschild will have second call on Loates.

Foresight, who performed so well at the Canterbury Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting, is one of the first of the stock of Artillery to appear in public. Artillery is a full brother to Mr Morrin's mare Hilda. Looking through my Christchurch exchanges I observe that Foresight ran at the Akaroa County Racing Club's meeting on the 28th ult., when she finished second to The Lumper in the Peninsula Cup Handicap of 50 sovs, one mile and a quarter. The Lumper carried 8.0 to Foresight's 7.7, and won by two lengths, Beau Nash finishing third. Later in the day Foresight ran another second, her conqueror this time being Vanguard's daughter Roseguard, who was carrying 7.12 to Foresight's 7.8. Foresight's dam, Lady Spec, is a daughter of Anteos—the horse once despised by the New Zealand Stud Co., who battered him away to go to New South Wales—and is out of Ethelred, whose daughter Bribery won the C.J.C. Great Autumn Handicap of 1877. Mr Busch bred Foresight, and now owns her dam.

'Cranbrook,' writing in the Melbourne Sportsman, is of opinion that when Captain Webb has been treated to a little more schooling he will be most dangerous in hurdle races. He suggests that Mr Gollan's horse will run well in the Victoria Racing Club's Grand National Hurdle Race.

After the victories of Saracen in the Great Easter Handicap and Loyalty in the Challenge Stakes, Mr S. H. Gollan does not seem to have paid such an extravagant figure for their dam Fair Nell. He gave 575gs. for her when the Middle Park stud was brought to the hammer. I believe Dreadnought was her stud mate this season.

Commenting on the victory in the Federal Stakes at Caulfield of Carbine's three-parts brother Carnage, the Melbourne Sporting Standard says:—"He won pretty comfortably, but scarcely as a real good one should have done, and though no doubt he may be capable of considerable improvement in condition I hardly think he can be classed amongst the best of the two year olds. Light Artillery, who was conceding him 23lb, was fast overhauling him at the finish."

A meeting of the recently formed Horseowners Association was held at the Edinburgh Castle Hotel last night. Mr G. McBride was in the chair. The business of the meeting was the consideration of Mr E. D. Halstead's handicaps for the Auckland Trotting Club's Autumn Meeting. It was resolved, after a lengthy discussion, "That the attention of the Metropolitan Club be drawn to the want of system in Mr Halstead's handicaps, and that they be requested to make an effort next year to reduce the system of handicaps as nearly as possible to a science." Instructions were given to the secretary to forward the resolution to the Auckland Trotting Club with the intimation that the Horseowners' Association did not take stronger measures as they did not desire to embarrass the club.

According to a Melbourne sporting paper St. Hippo was prior to his departure from there examined by Mr Allen, the "vet.," who found that he had sprained a small tendon close to the near fore fetlock.

For some weeks before his running at Ellerslie on Saturday and Monday last Royal Ross was under offer to more than one gentleman at 300gs. Somebody missed a real nibble. His owner would not take double the price for him now.

The Canterbury Trotting Club has adopted a new idea with regard to handicapping for their next meeting. The Handicapping Committee will make one set of handicaps, and two outside handicappers one apiece. These will be labelled 1, 2, 3, and the nominators will be requested to vote by ballot as to which they prefer. The sets of handicaps which secure the majority of votes will be used for the meeting.

A matter of exceedingly great import to those who back their fancies for races at 'starting price,' was decided at Flemington during the V.R.C. Autumn Meeting, when a backer complained to Mr E. J. Wright that a bookmaker who had laid him starting price to £1 refused to pay him more than 10 to 1 over Fortunatus for the Newmarket Handicap. The layer was taken before the V.R.C. Committee and declared that he had a printed notice in the place where he transacted his business that his starting price limit was 10 to 1, and that he was willing to pay this price over Fortunatus. He admitted, however, that the reservation as to a limit was not printed on the ticket he gave the backer, and on this ground the Committee ordered him to pay the backer at rate of 20 to 1, the starting price of Fortunatus. During the discussion Mr Wright, who is the V.R.C. detective brought forward English precedents showing that English bookmakers limited the starting price at 10 to 1 when there were less than ten starters; but, when otherwise, then the absolute starting price of the horse was paid.

An advertisement in another column displays the undoubted merits of 'Takaro,' the new medicine for the cure of sprains and sores in horses, cattle, and dogs. Several testimonials are appended from Southerners of great experience among horses.

The Baron, by Hippocampus—Grand Duchess, is advertised for sale by Mr W. Walters, of Papakura. The Baron has won some very good short races in his time, and should be good for more service on a racecourse yet. Even if he never again raced a yard, though he should make a good sire, for he is as clean bred as they make them, his sire being Hippocampus, by Dainty Ariel—Fanny Fisher, and his dam Grand Duchess, by Traducer—Peeress. Thus the blood of three great sires—Fisherman, Traducer, and The Peer, flows in his veins.