

Random Remarks.

[By PEGASUS.]



EGMONT RACING CLUB.

Next Wednesday, 10th inst., will find the above club 'making merry' over their Steeplechase gathering. Last week I dealt briefly with two of the principal items. At the time of writing, however, acceptances were not to hand, and I had to deal with them somewhat haphazard. Now I have the acceptances to hand, and find that in the Hurdle Race of the five I selected as best in only one of them has been content, viz., Disturbance. Last week I 'remarked' that Couranto, 11.13, and Waterbury, 11.5, would have to be reckoned with if their old selves. Couranto is left in but Waterbury has dropped out. The former must surely be in good order, and I think of the others who have 'cried off,' future events looming up before them must have had a very powerful influence. Empire, 10.12, has been doing well of late over sticks, and may be the 'correct pea,' but I still think Disturbance will 'down' him. So also Couranto. Chester, 10.6, I do not know enough about to warrant me choosing him. As for Jacob, Union Jack and Bradshaw, I am inclined to think they will find the company too 'hot.' I feel constrained to look for the winner in Disturbance, Couranto and Empire, and I shall accordingly place them in that order.

I took four as a 'main' in the Trial Steeplechase, and three are still left in, viz., Waterbury, 11.3, Allegretto, 10.2, and Karewa, 9.11. Many of the rest are almost, if not entirely, unknown quantities. Iroquois is spoken of favourably in many quarters and evidently the handicapper 'knows a little' by the weight he has allotted him—10.9. Union Jack, 10.2, is rather harshly treated, I should fancy, for his running has been only very mediocre. He may have improved, though, meanwhile. Disturbance I prefer in the 'small stick' event. Darebin would appear to have some confidential parties behind him, seeing that he is accepted for in both this and the Egmont Steeplechase. For that reason I shall take a 'pot shot' and put him down as the 'cock boat' of the party in either event. Apart from that I cannot see why this event should not end—Waterbury 1, Allegretto 2, Karewa 3.

The 'big money' event of the day is the Egmont Steeplechase of 150 sovs, about 3 miles. This has a field of eleven, and, as usual with all such events, is not an easy task to unravel. Shillelagh, 11.9, is topweight, and will surely take a lump of beating. Empire, 10.9, comes next, and if as good at this game as he is over hurdles, ought to have a say. I much prefer the next—Bootles—at 10.7. This 'joker' has been in 'lavender' for some time past, and has always given a good account of himself in the past. He won a couple of steeplechases last year, and has thereby proved his ability to negotiate 'country.' I am of opinion that what beats him will about win. I have been watching a long time for his reappearance. As I said before, I do not know enough of Chester 10.5. Auckland, 10.2, I am afraid to trust. I have no inclination for 'resurrected' ones. Of the others engaged my 'remarks' on previous evenings will now similarly apply, and if any of the six are to do the trick it may be Allegretto, 9.7, or Iroquois, 9.12—the former for choice—with Darebin, 9.7, again as a 'cock-boat.' Summing up the 'whys and wherefores,' I make a bold splash and 'pan out' the result:—

- Shillelagh 1
- Bootles 2
- Allégretto or Empire .. 3

The other items of the programme are not to hand at the time of writing, so that I cannot deal with them.

The Two Thousand Guineas was set down for decision at Newmarket yesterday. Among those considered as probable starters at the date of latest advices from England was Lord Calthorp's colt Buckingham, who is half-brother to Mr T. Morris's stallion Castor. There will be great rejoicings at Wellington Park in the event of his proving successful. Latest news to hand showed Mr McCalmont's Isinglass by Isonomy—Deadlock to be favourite.

Personalities.

Amongst the Manipouri's passengers from Sydney on Tuesday last was Mr William Blomfield, the well-known *Observer* artist. 'Blo' has just returned in time to hit off some Gaiety sketches.

Aucklanders will be instructed to learn that Miss Julia Knight, late of this city, was married in the beginning of March last to Mr Laws of South Australia. The bridegroom is a well-known banker, and is very well off.

Mr C. Chambers accuses the press of swelling the refreshment bill incurred by the Amateur Opera performance of 'Pinafore.' Some one should equip himself with a lantern, and like Diogenes go in search of the 'Cadaverous Pressman.' He would find the first syllable of the adjective easily enough without a lantern.

Mr Laurie, junr., of Customs Street, is going Home for a trip.

Mr Arthur Furness wishes to make it understood he has nothing to do with the jam manufactory. One fellow was ill natured enough to say he thought so on account of the 'jam' he put on.

Editor Greene, of the *Manukau Gazette*, has just had a little difference with a Mr Robert Smith, and during the scuffle in the *sanctum* the office windows were smashed.

One of the best placés in Auckland for purchasing overcoats, hats, ties, etc., is at E. C. Browne and Co.'s, Queen-street. Mr Browne is an Auckland boy and thoroughly understands the requirements of the trade.

In a previous issue we stated that Mr W. H. Fenton was about to commence business at Napier, and we now have to add that his brother, Mr Alf Fenton, goes to Wanganui to try his luck.

Councillor Farrell hopes to achieve a little cheap popularity by taking up a highly moral stand in connection with the late prize fight.

Mr Charlie Chambers is just beginning to realise how awkward it is to bump up against the press.

The 'Vicar of Wakefield' caused a good deal of fun when he described himself to the coroner's jury as a 'gentleman at large.'

Ask Mr Walker, of Macky Logan's, to tell you his experience with the St. Bernard dogs on the North Shore ferry boat a few nights since. It was very rich.

Mr Jack Gallagher, who is at present away in the Waikato on a shooting expedition, was described in the Police Court as a very material witness in the 'glove fight prosecutions,' and the case was adjourned to enable Jack to attend.

Mr Lovett, the well-known Wellesley-street draper, together with his wife and family took his departure for Sydney by the Waihora on Tuesday last. They are *en route* to England.

Sir Maurice O'Rorke opens the mock Parliament in the Y.M.C.A. on Friday evening.

John, the Abbott, has now several little gold mines of his own. We always thought he had.

The clerks of the bank of N.S.W. were in great force down at the wharf to see the Gaiety girls off.

Mr Fred Baxter, *Star* reporter, is laid up with an attack of pleurisy.

Bishop Moran returned to Auckland from the South on Tuesday last.

The exclusion of Mr T. Thompson from the new Ministry is generally regretted.

Captain Callaghan, at present in Auckland, is, according to Fiji papers, incorrectly styled A.D.C. to Sir J. B. Thurston. The 'captain' is commander-in-chief of the Fiji Navy of one vessel.

Editor Stallworthy, of Northern Wairoa, publishes a choice piece of doggerel upon the missing word competition. It is simply unique.

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