

wards, on March 21, that Mr Hannan be instructed to demand any action that might be taken against the club. This was before the stakes were paid over to Giesking. Stewards of the club had disqualified horses before. It is usual only when a protest is entertained to post up the fact that the protest is entertained. All the stewards were aware of how the horses came in. The money was paid to John Giesking, owner of Harkaway, which has already run in his name in Greymouth. No one else has an interest in Harkaway as far as he (witness) knew. At the committee meeting Mr Hannan objected to take the chair as he had an interest in Harkaway, but ultimately took the chair. Some of the stewards said to what extent they were interested, Hannan said he had tickets on Harkaway, and Nancarrow and Blair on Liberator. Matheson, he thought, had an interest on both horses. All the speakers spoke quite freely as to the interests they held.

And these be stewards of a Metropolitan Club! Truly racing on the West Coast has fallen off a lot in its status since the days when Mr Wm. Walters used to journey down there with Yatterina and other good ones, and when Robert Ray and other veterans used to meet him with the best of their cattle. After a couple of the stewards had been called, one of whom, Mr Nancarrow, deposed that he had a ticket in the totalisator on Liberator, the case was adjourned till next day.

On the second day of the hearing the first witness, called, was Charles James, the manager of the totalisator, and on plaintiff's counsel asking him how many tickets had been issued to Mr Hannan counsel for the defendants objected, and legal argument ensued. His Honor, Judge Robinson eventually deciding that the witness need not answer the question. After a lengthy hearing, extending on the whole over five days, the case concluded with a verdict for the defendants, which verdict only goes to further prove how stewards of racing clubs are hedged about with certain rights and privileges which cannot be broken in upon. At the time of writing we are not in possession of the full text of Judge Robinson's judgment, and therefore we cannot say on what grounds he decided against Liberator's owner, who, according to the evidence had it seemed to us, a pretty clear case. When it comes to hand we doubt not the judgment will be found a very interesting one, and we shall take an early opportunity of laying it before our readers.

The committee of the Auckland Racing Club, at their usual monthly meeting on Friday, removed the disqualification from one pony and from four jockeys. What does this portend? Is pony racing to be again taken under their protecting wing or not? We do not object to pony racing when properly fostered and conducted, and though we should be very sorry to see the Auckland Racing Club make the dilapidations a feature of their programme in any way, we cannot see why, if they are not recognising pony racing, they should remove certain disqualifications from ponies and jockeys. Let them either take one side or the other; let them either boldly recognise pony racing or cast it out of their way altogether rather than assume the lukewarm position they now appear to be taking up.

It was a graceful act of the Auckland Racing Club's committee at their meeting on Friday last, while receiving the resignation as judge of Mr John Kirkwood to pass a resolution appointing him a life member of the club. They could not well have done less. Mr Kirkwood has, as we pointed out at the time he tendered his resignation, served the club in the official capacities of judge and assistant handicapper for many years. As a handicapper doubtless he has made many mistakes—no handicapper is infallible—and as a judge he may have erred once or twice, but of his rectitude of purpose there could be not the slightest shadow of a doubt. He has been an able servant of the A.R.C., and we hope he will be able to enjoy the privileges of his life membership for many years to come. It is fortunate for the Auckland Racing Club that only one more meeting at Ellerslie remains before the racing season closes. Had Mr Kirkwood laid down his office earlier in the season they might have found themselves in a quandary. As it is they have endeavoured to fill the gap temporarily, and it will be for the new committee to decide who shall occupy the position of the "man in the box" at the club's race meetings during the season of 1893-94. They will have a ticklish job of it.

There was a good deal of surprise expressed in local sporting circles when it became known that the Auckland Racing

Club's committee had requested the Hon. E. Mitchelson to fill the post of judge at their Winter Meeting. Those who follow the course of racing events had not forgotten the position Mr Mitchelson took up with his fellow members of the Auckland Racing Club after the last Winter Meeting of the Auckland Racing Club. Because he found himself in a minority over the enquiry into Stranger's running he left the room in a huff; intimated his intention of entirely severing his connection with the Auckland Racing Club, and our readers will not forget that some correspondence ensued between himself and the club's committee, in which Mr Mitchelson had some very hard words to say against the inner operations of the club's business. And this, lo and behold, is the gentleman whom the Auckland Racing Club's committee wish to make a convenience of to fill a stop-gap for them at their Winter Meeting, because they have to face the resignation of their previous judge, and racing judges are not to be procured every day.

We do not wish to be misunderstood in this matter. We regard Mr Mitchelson as thoroughly competent to fill the position vacated by Mr Kirkwood, and had it not been for the friction of last year between Mr Mitchelson and the Auckland Racing Club's committee we should say that no better successor to Mr Kirkwood could be found. At the time of writing we understand that no official communication has been made to the club's committee by Mr Mitchelson as to whether or not he will accept the position offered him, though we have been told by some of the committee that he has privately intimated to them his willingness to act as judge at the club's Winter Meeting. In the event of his doing so, or his not doing so, it is hard to say who loses most dignity over the affair—the Auckland Racing Club's committee or the Hon. E. Mitchelson.

Inter-Provincial

[FROM OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

NAPIER.

May 8.

Nominations for the Hawke's Bay Steeplechase and Ladies' Bracelet close on Tuesday.

Hawke's Bay has five representatives in the Wanganui Steeplechase, and I think the best of them over big country is Acrore. Gondolier, who has 10.9, may turn out a good cross-country horse, but he must have a trial first. He did not pay up for Egmont, where he had 10.5. In this race he has 4lb more. We must see what Chester is capable of at Egmont; I think they are a bit too fast for him. If Waterbury jumps well he would prove a tough nut for any horse to crack, but last year he persistently refused. Couranto, his stable companion, is not in the big steeple, but is nominated for the Final, as also is a new candidate from here, King Rose. There is plenty of time yet, but, anyhow, I think Mr Douglas ought to have a big look in in the Winter Oats with Kapua.

I notice that a paragraph has been going the rounds about Merganser's young sister, who is described as being as 'fast as the wind.' She has never even been galloped yet. Mr Rathbone tells me he has not yet decided upon a name for her.

A committee meeting of the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club was held on Friday. Present—Captain Russell (chairman), Hon. J. D. Ormond, Messrs Wm. Douglas, G. Hunter, H. Gaisford, F. Logan, H. Mason, and J. Lyon. A letter was received from Mr C. Diamond, asking that steps be taken to re-open the enquiry concerning the disqualification of himself, F. Power, and the mare Jewel, by the Manawatu Racing Club. The evidence taken by the Manawatu stewards and letters from Messrs C. Diamond, R. Gooseman, A. T. Danvers, and W. S. Tatham, were read, when it was resolved to forward to the Wanganui Jockey Club the letters received from Messrs Diamond, Gooseman, Danvers and Tatham, and to further state that it is understood evidence is available to prove that the owner of Jewel backed his horse to win, also that an examination of Waterlily's jockey would show that he won the race easily, and that the general opinion of the racing men from Hawke's Bay present at the Manawatu meeting is that the mare Jewel was beaten on her merits. There being such great difference of opinion, it is suggested to the Wanganui Jockey Club that it is a case which, in

the interest of racing, should be thoroughly investigated, and as so little evidence has been taken, that it would be best to re-operate the case and hear the evidence that can be adduced. As a large number of the witnesses are resident in this district, this club would, if desired, assist the Wanganui Club by taking any evidence wished, and would transmit same to them." Mr F. W. Collins' design for a bangle for the diamond imported from London was approved. The chairman notified that the next conference would be held in Wellington on the 7th July. Mr Ormond's proposals for giving effect to his notice of motion, "That country clubs should have representations at future conferences," were approved, as were also the proposals for the publication of a New Zealand Stud Book. With a slight alteration, the steeplechase course was agreed to on last year's plan. A letter was received from Mr Jas. Edwards' solicitor, asking the Metropolitan Club to cause an enquiry to be held into the action of the Waipawa County Club in paying the stakes in the Hack Flat Race at Kaikora on the 19th inst to the owner of Jewel. It was resolved that a reply be sent stating that the Waipawa Racing Club had acted in accordance with the Rules of Racing. The Hon. J. D. Ormond and Captain Russell were appointed delegates to the next conference.

The following wagers have been laid by Messrs Profit and Wilson over the New Zealand Cup:—400 to 16 Crown Jewel, 200 to 10 Stanmoor, 500 to 25 Riversdale, 300 to 15 Launceston, 300 to 18 Merganser, 300 to 18 Skirmisher, 500 to 20 Fraternal, 500 to 20 Dilemma, and 500 to 25 Westmere.

A racing case came before the Resident Magistrate at Waipawa the other day, a trainer named Witt being the plaintiff, and the Waipukurau Jockey Club the defendants. The claim was for £25, value of stakes in the Final Hack Race at the Waipukurau Jockey Club's last meeting. Owing to the action of the secretary of the Club, Mr Nelson, who refused to allow plaintiff's jockey to weigh out and ride Prairie Flower, he claimed the stakes. In his evidence Witt said he paid his nomination and acceptance fees for both races, and started his mare in the Maiden Hack Race. He went with his jockey to weigh out for the Final Hack Race, when the secretary said, "Witt, I want another pound from you." He asked what for, and the secretary said it was for Limbrick's fine in the Maiden, and the fine would have to be paid before the mare could run. Replied that it was very hard lines that he should have to pay, and Mr Nelson said he had seen the stewards, who said the mare could not start unless the fine was paid. Limbrick was not the jockey who intended to ride for him in the Final. In reply to Mr Nelson he said he would sooner scratch the mare than pay. The numbers of the starters were hoisted on the board, and the number of his mare was on the totalisator, the bell of which he heard going. The secretary then scratched his mare. He did not present his jockey to the clerk of the scales, nor did he complain to the stewards. He was pretty confident his mare could have won the race. His mare was not backed on the totalisator when he saw it. The reason he did not pay the £1 was because he thought it was unjust to expect him to pay a jockey's fine. Only knew one of the stewards, and did not see him to complain to. Other evidence was taken, and the Rules of Racing were produced. Later on, however, Mr Sainsbury objected to them, on the ground that it had not been proved they were the Rules of Racing, and the objection was upheld. The secretary of the Waipawa Racing Club, Mr E. Gray, was subsequently put in the box to give evidence in regard to the Rules of Racing. Mr Sainsbury contended that no evidence had been produced relating to the authenticity of the rules. He would object to any more evidence being called. The club had offered to pay the plaintiff half the stakes, and half the cost he had incurred, sooner than act in an unsportsmanlike manner. Mr Loughnan remarked that it was merely a quibble to say that the Rules of Racing produced were not genuine. The plaintiff was non-suited, with costs £2 12s.

Mr Douglas has not yet settled when he will leave for Australia. He takes Waterbury and Couranto over, and perhaps a couple more, if they train on well.

Tuesday. Mr E. Gray, the secretary of the Waipawa County Racing Club, has been served with a summons by Mr J. Edwards

of Woodville for the amount of the stakes in the mile and a half Hack Race won by Jewel, whom it was alleged was a disqualified mare, while Spinfeldt was ridden by a disqualified jockey. North Island was the third horse, and his owner now seeks the stake. The case is to be heard this week at Woodville.

Ascot Vale and Oxide have been backed here for a few hundreds to win the next Melbourne Cup

WELLINGTON.

May 8th.

At a meeting of the committee of the United Hunt Club, held on Wednesday afternoon last week, the date on which their annual Steeplechase Meeting should take place was again considered, and after considerable discussion the Wednesday following the Wellington Racing Club's Winter Meeting was decided on, viz., July 12th. Mr M. H. Lyon accepted the position of honorary secretary of the race meeting, and a programme drafted by that gentleman was considered and approved. The new rules and regulations, under which hunt clubs are permitted to hold race meetings, provide that not less than four events on the programme shall be confined to qualified hunters only; and, as the Rules of Racing will not allow of more than seven races being run, it will be seen that only three open races can be included in the bill of fare. The programme will be made up as follows:—The Maiden Steeplechase of 30sovs, w.f.a., two miles; Open Hurdle Handicap of 45sovs, one mile and three-quarters; United Hunt Club Steeplechase Handicap of 50sovs, three miles and a half; Open Steeplechase Handicap of 75sovs, three miles; Ladies' Bracelet Handicap of 30sovs, two miles on the flat; Open Welter Handicap of 30sovs, one mile and a quarter on the flat; and Farewell Hunter's Hurdle Handicap of 40sovs, one mile and a half (weights to be declared on the course). The total added money will be 300sovs equally divided (as required by the rules) between the open events and those for qualified hunters only. Mr J. E. Henry was appointed handicapper and Mr S. Powell starter. Minor details of the programme were left in the hands of a sub-committee, with authority to issue the same as early as possible.

The following handicaps for the Wellington Trotting Club's Queen's Birthday Meeting were declared to-night by the Club's handicapper, Mr A. King:—

Wellington Trotting Club Handicap, 2 1/2 miles.—Clyde scr, Dakota scr, Nellie 5s, Fragment 10s, Tinker 37s, Peter 42s, Tuesday 47s, Billy Buttons 47s, Dusk 47s, St. James 50s, Conway 55s, Henloper 55s.

Electric Handicap, 1 mile.—Clyde scr, Nellie scr, Dakota scr, Fragment 5s, Prince II 10s, Peter 16s, Granny 18s, Tuesday 18s, Billy Buttons 18s, M.N. 22s, Conway 22s, Spreydon Lad 22s, Director 25s, Fleabite 25s, Aconite 25s, Jib 25s, Dingo 30s, Deception 30s, Kitty 30s.

Selling Handicap, 2 miles.—Tinker scr, Tuesday 5s, Billy Buttons 5s, Bob 10s, Countess II 15s, Director 18s, Cunning Bloke 20s, Nay Fault 20s, Captain 20s, M.N. 20s, Logic 30s, Guy 30s, Hokunai 35s, Fleabite 40s, Deception 40s, Giff II 45s, H.K. 45s.

Pony Handicap, 2 miles.—Tuesday scr, Mabel 18s, Aconite 23s, Folly 30s, Hokunai 30s, Hickory 35s, Fisherman 40s, Fanny 45s, Topsy 45s, Dot 45s, It 45s, Disowned 45s, Jib 45s, Daisy Clipper 45s, Dingo 45s, Starlight II 50s, Ceres 55s, Darkey 55s.

Miramai Park Handicap, 2 miles.—Clyde scr, Dakota scr, Nellie 3s, Fragment 8s, Tinker 30s, Granny 35s, Tuesday 35s, Billy Buttons 35s, St. James 38s, Dusk 38s, Johnny 42s, Conway 45s, Countess II 45s, Servia 45s, Spreydon Lad 45s, Mabel 50s, Director 50s.

Maiden Handicap, 2 miles.—Tinker scr, Peter 4s, Henloper 10s, Laurie 20s, Miss Amy 20s, Johnny 20s, Taihoa 20s, Biddy 20s, My Fault 20s, Cunning Bloke 20s, Captain 20s, Servia 20s, Folly 25s, Fisherman 25s, Topsy 25s, Speculation 25s, Dingo 25s, Guy 25s, Disowned 25s, Kitty 25s, Ceres 25s.

The entry of Mr Abbott's horse Rocket was received too late to be accepted, and the entry of Mr F. C. Retter's Buckley for the Selling Race was rejected, the disqualification of horse and owner by the Johnsonville and Hutt County Club having been endorsed by the New Zealand Trotting Association.

WANGANUI.

May 8th.

The well-known racehorse Prestige has been turned out for the winter, and will not be brought in again till near next Christmas, when should his leg stand he ought to be heard of again during next season. McCormick has also turned out in the same paddock a yearling filly by Wapiti—Vernicelli, who shows at the present time good quality and looks a likely one to gallop. She is engaged in the Egmont Sires' Hack Produce Stakes of 1895. Manine, who is engaged in both steeplechases at Egmont and Wanganui,