

Wairarapa Trotting Club.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT).

WELLINGTON, June 5.

THE inaugural meeting of the Wairarapa Trotting Club at Carterton, on Thursday last, was held under very favourable auspices as regards weather, attendance, and sport. Although in the early morning it was raining in Wellington, which deterred a lot of city sports from going to the meeting, it was a beautiful day in the Wairarapa, and a good crowd—fully 1200—turned up on the A. and P. Associations Show Ground, where the track has been made. At present the course is only 30 chains in circumference, and is rather too full of sharp turns for large fields; but it is intended shortly to take in an adjoining section, which will enable the stewards to lay off a half-mile track with easier turns. Although the attendance was large, and the sport good, speculation was very limited, and Mr A. R. Macfarlane, who worked the totalisator, put through only £365 during the afternoon.

The Maiden Handicap, which opened the proceedings, brought out the largest field of the day, exactly twenty facing the starter, Mr "Dick" Roake, the well-known huntsman. The race was won very easily by a rather ugly black mare called Sultana, belonging to Mr A. Gordon. Dick, a likely-looking chestnut, was put about as a good thing, but finished in the ruck.

The District Handicap fell to an old stager named Jumbo, who was trotted about here for years and only won one race and that with a very long start. Age has evidently improved him, for later on, after making a terrible mess of the Stewards' Handicap, which was in harness, he came out and won the principal race of the meeting, beating a very hot favourite in Mr Tate's Conway, winner of the last Johnsonville Trotting Club Handicap, and paying the good dividend of £13 16s. Conway should have won, but he was too fresh, and continually broke, which lost him the race.

The Stewards' Handicap fell to the mysterious Dick, who started such a favourite for the Maiden. He now showed excellent form, and really made mincemeat of his field, which included several fair horses, including Fragment (who was favourite), Prince II., Jumbo, and Fred Reid. Dick's party did well over this race, but I am rather surprised that the stewards did not ask for an explanation. I hear now that it is not long since this horse was brought up from Christchurch, but I know no more.

The Selling Trot was thought a "moral" for the Maiden winner, Sultana, who was penalised 7sec., making her start 23sec. from Fairholm, the scratch horse. Again backers were wrong, for Sultana did not move so freely as in the former race, and succumbed at the finish to an old local trotter named Wait-a-while, belonging to the secretary, Mr W. McKenzie, who was giving the favourite 13sec. The winner was sold at auction by Mr Lowes of Masterton and knocked down to Mr T. Price for £12.

In the Wairarapa Trotting Club Handicap, which, as I have said, fell to Jumbo, nine started, including Fragment, 15sec, and Prince II., 37sec, but nothing could get near Jumbo and Conway, and Fragment, who was third, was fully 100 yards away from the second.

In the Grandstand Handicap (in harness) Prince II., who had performed indifferently in the big race and Stewards, showed real good form, and won with a bit to spare from Fred Reid, 50sec, who also exhibited great improvement on his Stewards' Handicap form.

The Consolation, which was run almost in the dark, fell to a 'varminty' looking bay gelding The Spider, 35sec, who had exhibited good speed in the Maiden, the District and Grand Stand Handicaps, but had collapsed badly at the finish of all three. He did not collapse in the Consolation, however, but waltzed home, cutting out the two miles nearly a minute faster than the District Handicap—in which he was only second—was trotted by Jumbo.

The Papawai Maori Brass Band was present and played some exceedingly good music. The general management was excellent, and the stewards are well satisfied with the result of their first meeting, which certainly passed off very harmoniously. The trotters present were not of a very high class as a whole, but five or six seemed to have good action, and as the scratch horses, Fragment, Bugby and Fairholm were out of every-

thing there must have been some pretty good ones going. Mr A. King, the handicapper, was successful in getting excellent acceptances, but none of the finishes were very close, although the favourites were not successful except in one race.

Fillis's Circus

A MAMMOTH SHOW.

THE arrival of Mr Allan Hamilton by the steamer Manapouri on Tuesday gave warning of the early advent of Fillis's Circus and Menagerie to Auckland, and this morning the small gang of bill-posters at work confirm the idea. In conversation with Mr Hamilton at the Albert Hotel, that gentleman said, 'Yes, we open in Auckland on Wednesday next, on the ground adjoining the Railway Station belonging to the Harbour Board, and I should like to say a word in thanks of the courtesy I have met with at the hands of Mr Brigham, the secretary, who, in spite of the fact that the leasing of any ground belonging to that corporation must, as a rule, be placed before the full committee, took such steps that within two hours of my application a satisfactory reply was received; and here I may say, that through this, my first visit to New Zealand, I have met with the greatest possible assistance. Nothing appears to be a trouble to anybody, and the consequence is a business trip really becomes a pleasure one. At any rate that is my experience, and although I leave for Sydney on Tuesday next, I hope before many months are past to pay another visit to your hospitable country. You are correct in saying that our tour has been a phenomenal one. Yes, phenomenal is the word that rightly expresses our success. I have heard a great deal about what others have done in our line in this country, and I think it is generally conceded that Cooper and Bailey's show was the biggest that ever came this way. Well, I don't wish to say one word about the merits of Cooper and Bailey, but I do know that our receipts have 'topped' the famous show of 15 years ago in every town that we have visited. I know exactly what I am talking about, on account of our excellent manager Signor Patrick O'Grady Agrati (who was the manager of the C and B show), being in possession of the actual receipts of that tour. But what is that to the public? What you good people of Auckland want is to see the show, and we have, I think, a circus and menagerie that will please everybody. In our menagerie, which by the way is free—no extra charges about us—you will find four magnificent Nubian Lions, who are put through a most exciting performance twice daily by their intrepid trainer. Then a performing Royal Bengal Tiger, who performs loose in the arena; yes, actually loose, my boy. None of your milk and water business, but I assure you that our tiger cannot be beaten in any part of the world. The trainer winds up his performance by a man and tiger fight—a most realistic affair. After this we show you a fine lot of zebras, panthers, monkeys, and other animals, which I claim go to make up the best menagerie ever seen on the road. And please remember that all perform in the arena. Coming to the stables we have a remarkably fine lot of horses—70 in number—who are taught to do anything but talk, and I imagine that even you will be surprised at the wonderful amount of intelligence they possess. Of artistes we carry 90, all picked by Mr Fillis in his annual tour to England and the Continent. They comprise the very best to be obtained, and we cannot offer you more than that.

Two performances will be given daily, and let me assure you that the afternoon performances are equal in all respects to the evening shows, so that country friends need not be afraid about seeing any curtailment in the programme.

'How are you satisfied with New Zealand? Well, Mr Fillis never played to such enthusiastic crowds in the whole of his experience, and his only complaint is that the colony is not three times larger, in which case he would establish permanent buildings, the same as he possesses in London, Brighton, Manchester, Glasgow, and all through South Africa.'

Thus ended a pleasant chat, and Mr Hamilton hurried away to meet a carpenter on the ground.

* * Dan McLeod at Ellerslie on Saturday next.

All-round Sport

By "MILO."

Football.

FIXTURES.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10.

Suburbs v. Parnell	SENIORS.
Grafton v. Ponsonby	
Newton v. Grafton	SECONDS.
Ponsonby v. Suburbs	
Parnell v. City	THIRDS.
Suburbs v. Grafton	
Grafton B v. Parnell	
Ponsonby v. City	

The threatening aspect of the weather on Saturday afternoon last was responsible for the poor attendance at Epsom. In fact, many were of opinion the matches would have been postponed, more especially when it became known that the Racing Club had altered the date of their fixture. However, the club contests were continued, and the ground was not in so bad a state as might have been expected. Ponsonby managed to defeat Suburbs by 2 points to nil, and City only succeeded in making a draw with Grafton, greatly to everybody's surprise.

The Ponsonby-Suburbs match resulted in the former winning by 2 points to nil. Notwithstanding the heavy state of the ground the play at times was of a very interesting description. Suburbs had the advantage of the services of Siddle and McKenzie, while Ponsonby's team was rather weaker than usual. The difficulty which the players experienced in holding the ball prevented numerous scores being gained. It was generally understood that the Union had devised some method by which the match would be started punctually; whatever the method may be it did not work very well on Saturday, as it was an absolute impossibility to distinguish the players, or even to know where the ball was, so dark had it become when this match terminated.

The Suburbs team did some very clean passing, from which they, however, gained no advantage, owing to the men passing before they had run a single yard in a forward direction.

The pick of the Suburbs forwards on Saturday was Major, who played a hard and clever game.

Charlie Stichbury again played a splendid full-back game. In fact Ponsonby may thank him for having averted defeat, as had it not been for the cool and clever manner in which he stopped some of the forward rushes a score must certainly have resulted.

Andrews and Dacre were frequently prominent in the forward rushes.

Masefield was in rare form. His kicking and collaring were very serviceable. "Masey" actually passed to Scott. If he only went in for this passing game he would be about the best three-quarter back in Auckland.

Neither Herrold nor Rhodes were seen to much advantage on Saturday. Rhodes interfered with Braund when the latter did not have the ball, and Ponsonby were granted a free kick. The moral is "not obstruct a player who knows how and when to appeal."

Ramsay and Braund played well together. It is strange how such men as these are overlooked in the face of the brilliant games they play every week.

Siddle was not in the best of form, owing, no doubt, to want of practice.

In Marshall and Absolum Suburbs possesses two very fast men, who will make things rather lively on a dry day.

Langsford, Flynn and Green were about the best of the Ponsonby forwards. Flynn would have scored on one occasion had he not passed. Unselfishness is a good feature, but there are two instances in which it is wise to be selfish.

(1) When you have no opponent to pass; (2) when there is no member of your own team to whom you can pass. This was the case with Mick Flynn.

The place kicking of both teams on Saturday was very much off.

The Suburbs full-back was very safe on Saturday.

Warnock kicked well, but he still refuses to take part in the Ponsonby passing runs. He may say he does not get the pass, but it is his own fault, for he does not get into his position.

Both Suburbs and Ponsonby have a lot to learn on the line-out play. Why not copy Parnell?

"Dandy" Cole's exclusion from the New Zealand team was a great shock to the City forward.

City Second have secured a slashing forward named Anderson from Wanganui. They intend playing him next Saturday.

City is said to be anxious to have their match with Newton on Saturday next postponed.

Willis, of the City Second, plays a very good game at times, but should pass more.

Mr Jack Webster made a capital referee in the Ponsonby-Suburbs match.

Fred Murray says if he ever gets to Australia he will say good-bye to Maoriland.

Albie Braund was in something like his old form last Saturday.

Marshall, of the Suburbs, continues to play up to his reputation. On Saturday he ran, tackled and kicked in great style.

Footballers would like to know how Billy Dickey comes to be qualified to play for Suburbs.

The Auckland Rugby Union, in answer to an enquiry from Northern Wairoa footballers, sent the following letter along which will be of interest to local readers:—"J. Stallworthy, Esq., hon. secretary Wairoa Rugby Union, Aratapu.—Dear sir,—We have received a letter from W. W. Holford of Aratapu asking for an opinion as to whether he is eligible to play as a junior this season. He states: 'Our Union consider that I being a senior player last year, cannot play as a junior this year, my club not thinking me fit to play as a senior.' As our custom is that all requests for rulings, &c., shall come through the Union directly interested, I am instructed to inform you what the ruling of the committee would be if a similar case occurred in connection with our own Cup matches, viz.—if the circumstances are as stated by Mr Holford and we are correct in assuming that the junior team for which he wishes to play is the second fifteen of his own club, the committee consider him eligible to play as a junior. Our interpretation of Bye-Law 29 is that when a club has chosen its best 15 men as a first team, any members remaining are entitled to play in the second team. I have written Mr Holford referring him to you for an answer to his enquiry.—Yours truly, G. H. Dixon, secretary."

My Taranaki correspondent writes:—"On Thursday last the Stratford and Star first fifteens met in the second round of the Cup matches, the game being played on the Star ground. In the Stratford ranks were six Taranaki reps., namely, A. Bayly, R. Lusk, Davies, Sangster, Pearson, C. Bayly, and Coutts. The country team averaged 14lbs heavier than their opponents, but in spite of rep men and weight the Star dusted their jackets (or rather guernseys) to the tune of 9 points to nil. In the first spell S. Humphries, the Star captain, scored a try, and in the second spell H. Ford and A. Humphries scored a try each, the latter converting the one scored by himself. The Stratford backs, especially A. Bayly and R. Lusk, made several determined efforts to score, but the collaring and defence of the Star men were too superior. Bob Lusk's brother played full-back for the Stratford. The Star players were good all round, and it would be difficult to pick out any for special distinction. Robinson, at full-back, proved himself a good man, his marking and kicking being excellent. L. Allen and Kingsley played well at three-quarter, and A. Humphries played his usually serviceable game at centre-half. A. George, Ryan, and Rutherford headed some good forward rushes, but I must admit that the whole eight forwards played so well that it would be difficult to pick out any one as being especially prominent. The Star play Clifton in about three weeks, when a great battle is expected. So far the Star are unbeaten, having beaten Clifton once and Stratford twice. On Queen's Birthday the Star II. met Tukapa in the Junior Cup round, the former winning by 4 points (2 tries) to nil. I forgot to mention that the Stratford-Star match was unnecessarily rough, several of the players on each side being temporarily laid out."

At last the Selection Committee, consisting of Messrs. Henderson (Auckland), Logan (Napier), and Campbell (Wellington), have made their choice, and it has given satisfaction, but, of course, there is the usual heartburnings in certain quarters. Auckland has five representatives, and out of these Parnell claims three, Newton one, and Suburbs one. The team is as follows:—Full-back: A. D'Arcy, Wairarapa, 13.8. Three-quarter backs: A. Good, Taranaki, 12.0; F. M. Jervis, Auckland, 11.8; G. Harper, Nelson, 11.7. Half-backs: D. Gage, Wellington, 12.2; Butland, West Coast, 12.2; W. Elliott, Auckland, 12.4; M. Herrold, Auckland, 11.0. Forwards: Lambie, Taranaki, 13.6; A. Stuart, Wellington, 11.9; S. Cockroft,