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FIXTURES—1904

May 11 and 12—Hawke's Bay J.C. Autumn
May 21 and 24—Takapuna J.C. Winter
May 24 and 26—North Otago J.C. Winter
June 3 and 4—Dunedin J.C. Winter
June 3, 8 and 11—Auckland R.C. Winter
June 22 and 23—Hawke's Bay J.C. Winter
June 28 and 29—Napier Park R.C. Winter
July 7 and 8—Gisborne R.C. Steeplechase

NOMINATIONS.

May 13—A.E.C. General Entries
May 13—Hawke's Bay J.C. Hurdles and Steeplechase
May 27—Hawke's Bay J.C. Winter
May 28—Dunedin J.C. Winter
June 2—Napier Park R.C. Winter

WEIGHTS DECLARED

May 16—North Otago J.C. Winter
May 23—A.E.C. Winter. First Day
May 28—Dunedin J.C. Winter
June 10—Hawke's Bay J.C. Winter
June 24—Napier Park R.C. Winter

ACCEPTANCES.

May 13—A.E.C. Winter, Special Events
May 13—Takapuna J.C. Winter
May 19—North Otago J.C. Winter
May 27—A.E.C. Winter, First Day
May 28—Dunedin J.C. Winter
June 17—Hawke's Bay J.C. Winter
June 25—Napier Park R.C. Winter

REMINDERS TO OWNERS.

General entries for the A.E.C. Winter
Meeting are due on Friday, May 13,
when acceptances for the G.N. Hurdles
and G.N. Steeplechase must also be
made.

Acceptances for the first day's events
of the Takapuna Jockey Club's Winter
Meeting close with Mr Wynyard to-mor-
row (Friday), at 9 p.m.

Takapuna Steeplechase acceptances are
due to-morrow evening at 9 p.m.

Acceptances for the Wanganui Jockey
Club's Winter Meeting (first day's events)
close with Mr Moffatt to-morrow, at
9 p.m.

**Sporting and Dramatic
REVIEW**

AND
Licensed Victuallers' Gazette.
With which is incorporated the Weekly Standard

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1904.

THE GREAT NORTHERN MEETING.

THE G.N. HURDLE RACE.

THE near approach of the great winter
fixture of the Auckland Racing Club is
heralded by the publication of the
handicaps for the chief events. As usual
Mr Evett has been prompt to time, and
the result of his labours shows much
careful work. As this year the club has
adopted the sensible method of running
the big hurdle race on the opening day
that event can be considered first.

At the head of the somewhat lengthy
list of names comes Waiwera with 12st
4lb, and on his Southern form he might
have a chance, but if he repeats his
customary method of performing at
Ellerslie the son of Gipsy King cannot
be written right out.

Spalpeen with 12st 2lb opposite his
name possesses an undoubted chance, for
whatever his failings may have been on
the flat the chestnut has shown to
splendid advantage when called upon to
negotiate the small obstacles. The last
time he met Waiwera was in the Grafton
Hurdle Race, which he won very easily
by three lengths from a fast horse like
Hautapu, the Southerner being hopelessly
distanced. The latter, although meeting
Spalpeen on eight pounds better terms,
should be easily held safe by Mr
Marshall's horse, who, however, is said
to be very backward at present.

Cannongate, 11st 11lb, has received
quite enough, although with a pound
more he silenced a weak field in the
Autumn Hurdles at Ellerslie.

Up-to-Date, 11st 10lb, is a horse
which is certain to come in for plenty of
support, as there are many who hold to
the opinion that he is another Record
Reign. In the Grafton Hurdles Spal-
peen, who was conceding Mr Roulston's
horse 16lbs, gave him a fearful licking,
and even admitting that the son of St.
Hippo has made very considerable im-
provement since then, it is difficult to see
how he is to beat Spalpeen at a difference
of only six pounds. Still he is sure to
run well, for he is a very honest horse.

Haydn, 11st, has not shown to advan-
tage for a long time past, and naturally
his weight has been upon a descending
scale. He will be meeting Spalpeen on
23lbs and Waiwera on 15lbs better terms
than when they last met, and if brought
to the post in his best trim may show to
advantage.

Slow Tom, on the same mark, has
given evidence of winning form of late,
for at Wellington with 10st 6lb in the
saddle he had a very easy victory in the
Handicap Hurdle Race. On that run-
ning Mr Marshall's gelding must prove
hard to beat.

It looks as though Mars, 10st 9lb, is a
light of other days, although he was
obviously in want of condition at Avon-
dale, when the old fellow's efforts to get
the course were quite painful to witness.
Killarney, 10st 7lb, has not been harshly
treated, for he ran third to Slow Tom at
Wellington, and now meets his conqueror
on exactly a stone better terms. Under
certain conditions Princess of Thule, 10st
3lb, would possess a great chance, but
as they are not likely to exist, I must
pass her. Hautapu, 10st, possesses the

qualification of speed, for he won a half-
mile dash at Avondale, and is in addition
a smart jumper. On the form at the
Christmas meeting Spalpeen should beat
him, for he did so on both occasions
when the pair met on the same terms,
as they are now asked to do. Probably
Hautapu has improved somewhat since
then, however, but the distance may be
against him.

Looking among the light weights
those who might show up to advantage
are Ranana 9st 10lb, Creusot 9st 10lb,
Aka Aka 9st 5lb, Hippowai 9st 4lb, and
Tahae, 9st 3lb. I am inclined to think,
however, that the dangerous division
will consist of Spalpeen, Cannongate,
Up-to-Date, Slow Tom, Killarney, and
Hautapu. The acceptances on Friday
will tend to throw further light upon the
question.

THE G.N. STEEPLCHASE.

A very knotty problem has been set
backers by Mr Evett in his handicaps
for the big cross country event of the
A.E.C. Winter Meeting, and it is one
which will take a lot of solving. For-
tunately the Wanganui Steeplechase
precedes it by about a fortnight, so that
the Southern race may help to throw
some light upon the probable chances of
those engaged at Ellerslie, for many of
the same horses are engaged in both
events. The winner at Wanganui has
before now captured the big prize at
Ellerslie. Many of the horses listed to
compete in the big jumping race at
headquarters are also down to appear in
the Takapuna Steeplechase, and as the
distance is in both cases the same it is
rather interesting to compare Mr Evett's
and Mr Knight's compilations. In the
Grand National Steeplechase Cannongate
stands at the head of affairs with 12st
5lb, and it is curious to find both weight
adjusters dealing out exactly the same
poundage to the son of Cannon. That
he is a good one over country admits of
no dispute, and with two pounds less he
ran second to Haydn last year. The
field on that occasion was, however, a
remarkably weak one, and I am inclined
to think the top weight might well have
had those odd five pounds off his back.
Haydn, 12lb 2lb, came in by himself last
year, on which occasion he carried 11st
6lb. He has been kept at it all through
the summer, and may be somewhat stale.
Spalpeen, 11st, has not so far been
asked to tackle the big jumps, but he is
such a fine fencer there is no reason why
he should not do so, and on the score of
weight has nothing to grumble at.
Princess of Thule, 10st 10lb, is a mare
who can get the country all right, for
with Quinton in the saddle she won the
Auckland Steeplechase at the Summer
Meeting at Ellerslie in very hollow
fashion when carrying but four pounds
less than her present impost. On that
form she ought to hold Haydn quite
safe. Slow Tom, on the same mark, is
an unknown quantity as far as timber
topping is concerned, but he is reported
to be a bold fencer. As he is one of
those entered at Wanganui he may be
given a chance to show what he can do
in this respect. Nor'-west was allotted
11st 2lb in last year's event, but fell
when he was running with the leaders.
Mr Evett in apportioning him seven
pounds less has put the son of Sou'-
wester in his place, but I am inclined to
think he is a past light. Comfort, 10st
7lb, has frequently shown to advantage
over hurdles, winning the other day at
the Manawatu Meeting. What sort of a
performer he will prove himself at
timber-topping has yet to be seen.
Straybird, 10st 6lb, has six pounds less
than Mr Knight considers should have
been his share, a remark which also
applies to Dingo, 10st 3lb. At this
weight the Sou'-wester gelding, if really
himself on the day of battle, should be a
hard horse to beat. Killarney, 10st 2lb,
may run well, while old Kanaka, 10st,
registered a good performance at Avon-
dale the other day, although it is to be
feared the hill climbing may find him
out. Hipstone 9st 9lb, Marine 9st 9lb,
and Hylas 9st 7lb, may have outside
chances. It will, however, be well to
wait till after the Takapuna and Wan-
ganui Steeplechases before coming to
any definite opinion concerning the
candidates, for these events are certain
to throw considerable light upon the
chance of those listed to compete at
Ellerslie.