

TRAINING NOTES.

ELLERSLIE.

On Saturday afternoon a lot of useful schooling work was got through at Ellerslie. Tahae ran away from Spalpeen and Val Rosa in a mile and a-half go on the course proper, the distance taking 3min 4sec.

Haydn, Up-to-Date and Ake Ake then did a solid two miles over the same track, finishing in that order. Fergus was on the former, Howard on the second, and O'Connell on the latter, the time being 4min 4sec, which could have been improved on.

Mars bolted away from the Maiden Hurdler, Native Rose, over a one and a-half mile course. The old 'un seemed anxious to make the pace faster; they got to the end of the journey in 3min 7½sec.

Papatu, Straybird, and Crespin then had a round over the big country and acquitted themselves with credit, finishing in the above order. The former fenced boldly, while Crespin with a bit of seasoning should make a useful chaser.

Messrs Roulston, Kidd, Davis and Len Marshall were present to see the horses perform, and also quite a number of spectators took an interest in the leaping.

TUESDAY.

The course proper being thrown open this morning some good work was got through. The first to commence was Haydn, who did two useful rounds at half-pace, brushing home over the last half-mile.

Monoform and another skipped over five furlongs, doing no watch breaking.

Lady Annie alone got to the end of six furlongs in 1min 36sec, moving freely.

Scotty, by himself, did a like task in 1min 36 4-5sec.

Waikato sprinted five furlongs. This horse seems to be coming on nicely.

Kamo had all the best of Austerlitz over a short sprint.

Delania proved too fleet for Te Aroha in a five furlongs flutter, the last three furlongs taking 41sec.

Idasa ran over the same course by herself, taking a second longer.

St. Olga ran right away from Bonomiana in a mile spin, the last six furlongs being done in 1min 26 2-5sec.

Putty, who looks big and lusty, did two rounds on the tan at three-quarter pace.

Geologist sprinted five furlongs alone in 1min 9sec, finishing resolutely.

Numa took it leisurely over the mile course, not trying to make time.

The brothers Tahae and Ake Ake did two useful rounds on the sand track. Both horses look very fit.

Marine, at half-pace, strode round the tan for a couple of circuits.

Mauku skipped away from Dolores in a five furlongs flutter in 1min 10sec.

Hippowai beat the uncertain Val Rosa in a one and a-half mile go in 3min 1 4-5sec.

Henko ran seven furlongs, assisted by The Needle in the last five furlongs, on the tan in 1min 31sec.

Garnaut took 1min 10sec to go five furlongs, and tired at the finish.

Bloodstone followed immediately after on the same track in 1min 9 1-5sec.

Papatu and several others did light work.

After breakfast Up-to-Date did good useful work.

Yolette spurted four furlongs in 54½sec.

Bother did the same distance on the sand track in 52½sec.

Avalanche and Morpeth worked in company on the track, sprinting the last three furlongs.

Manoeuvre and Inspiration ran five furlongs together in 1min 9½sec, with little to choose between the pair.

Crespin and Seabird worked steadily separately on the tan.

Sonoma and another spurted five furlongs, and the former finished in front.

Lady Raven, Flower of Gold and Cavalry jumped the schooling hurdles fairly well and finished in the above order.

Reveller, on his own, jumped eight of the same hurdles, shaping well.

Miss Soult, Nor-west, Portland Lass, Soultfish, Orange and Blue and Wai Wai also did fair work.

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENCE.

"Wager" (Coromandel).—In cutting for deal at euchre the custom is to give the deal to the person cutting the highest euchre card. Anyone turning up the ace would, therefore, naturally beat a person cutting the king, for as there are no trumps declared there can be no bowers. This is the practice at all the progressive euchre evenings in Auckland, and is beyond question the correct one.

AFTER THE RACES. INTER-PROVINCIAL.

THE CHRISTCHURCH RACING CLUBS MEETING.

The Christchurch Racing Club had fine weather for its Autumn Meeting at Plumpton on Saturday. Speculation was brisk, the amount passed through the tote totalling £4299, against £2883 at the same fixture last year. The track was fast but most of the races were won fairly easily.

Racing commenced with the High-weight Handicap, one mile. The three-year-old Musketry colt Royal Crown, being sent out a warm favourite in a field of seven. A capital start was effected, Artilleryman being first to show out, Cannonite and Zealous heading the others. Running down the back, Artilleryman was well clear of Zealous, while Natalie ran into third place, Royal Crown being last. Turning into the home stretch Zealous drew alongside Artilleryman, while Royal Crown and Natalie also moved up. Zealous had the best of matters in the home stretch and beat Royal Crown by four lengths, Natalie being a bare length behind the favourite.

Seven saddled up for the Maiden Handicap, one mile, the backers selecting Count Gorton as the most likely one to prevail. Graduated Tax and Shellfire both came in for strong support. Count Gorton got all the best of a fair start, but before going half a mile the leader was done with. Eurus then went on in front with Blunderbuss next, Shellfire and Steelspur being the next pair. Eurus held his own coming down the straight and won by a length from Shellfire, who beat Steelspur by three lengths, Blunderbuss being fourth.

The Christchurch Handicap, one mile and a distance, brought out the following starters:—Grand Rapids, 8st 11lb; Secret Society, 8st 3lb; Terrapin, 8st; Djin Djin, 7st 22lb; Clanburn, 6st 7lb. Money was piled on to Grand Rapids as if the race was all over.

From an even start Grand Rapids pulling hard, and Secret Society set out to make the pace. This pair, followed by Clanburn were on even terms at the half distance, but a little further on Secret Society fell back. Clanburn was first into the straight, and when it came to racing he easily drew away from Grand Rapids, beating him by half a dozen lengths in hollow fashion. Secret Society was another three lengths behind Grand Rapids, the other pair being outpaced from the start. Clanburn paid his supporters the handsome dividend of £12 0s 6d.

There were four starters in the Flying Handicap, five furlongs, these being Lady Lillian, Petrovna, Nell Gwynn, and Te Taiaha. Lady Lillian lost some ground at the start, while Petrovna was quick off the mark. Te Taiaha kept with Petrovna for a couple of furlongs, when he fell back. Petrovna was never headed, and beat Lady Lillian by a length and a half.

The Hack Handicap, six furlongs, brought out a field of seven, the Cajolery mare Summer Rose being best supported. The favourite jumped away in front and was never headed, winning by two lengths from Magical, who beat Wet Blanket by a head for second place.

The Welter Handicap, six furlongs, brought out the largest field of the day, eleven horses facing the starter. Conal was installed favourite, with Cerise and Blue next in demand. The field got away on even terms, Conal being the first to show out. At the end of a furlong Cerise and Blue passed Conal and headed into the straight with a clear lead. Conal and Ability were at the head of the others. Half-way down the straight Cerise and Blue appeared to be winning comfortably, but Conal came with a fine run, and gradually overhauling the leader beat him by a length. Ability was a similar distance away, third.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

CANTERBURY.

Christchurch, May 11.

The Canterbury Jockey Club will celebrate its jubilee next year, and in order to mark the occasion the club intends to give a large increase in stake money. Starting off with the Grand National Meeting, the Grand National Steeplechase stake has been increased to £1000, while the value of the National Hurdle Race will be £700. The next New Zealand Cup is to be worth £2000, the winner receiving £1500, the second horse £300, and the third £200. It will cost an owner £20 in entrance fees, etc., to start a horse in the Cup, and there should be a record entry. Nominations for the Cup are due on June 6.

Slow Tom, who will be ridden by A. Hall in his important engagement at Auckland, was sent over the big fences last week. He jumped the brush fences and sod wall in taking style, and may be worth backing for the Great Northern Steeplechase.

Bayonet, who will be hunted with the hounds, was given some exercise over the hurdles, and he jumped fairly well.

It is intended to qualify Narcissus for the Hunter's Hurdle Races.

The Ashburton County Club's Autumn Meeting will start to-morrow. The following are likely winners:—

Long Beach Hack: Eurus.
Ashburton Handicap: Clanburn.
Disposal Handicap: Miss Hamilton.
Fairfield High-Weight: Conal or Zealous.
Grove Farm Handicap: Lady Lillian or Melrose.
Galloway: Telemina.

WELLINGTON.

Wellington, May 8.

Mr J. Hogg, the owner of the hurdle mare Levant, recently purchased the three-year-old mare Delight. The latter was sent to Marlborough for the sprint events but again failed to catch the judge's eye. Delight has shown his trainer some good trials on the Hutt track, but fails to reproduce them in public. Her late owner parted with her as hitherto she has been weighted more on private than public form.

Hydrant and Waikakeho were also raced unsuccessfully at Marlborough. The former was evidently given every chance to win, as he was set to meet Sandy on 32lb better terms than when the pair met last month at the Wellington Meeting. It is refreshing to find weight adjusters taking due notice of recent form. Owners in the past have complained bitterly that their horses were persistently kept up in weight notwithstanding that for months their public form had been wretched. The diverse views of weight adjusters is looked upon with favour by owners for they argue that it is only fair to occasionally shuffle the cards thoroughly.

The Soult-Lorelie horse Sandy, has proved a small gold mine to his present owner, Mr Solomon. Sandy was sold to his present owner by Mr Watson for some 35 guineas. I have no doubt but that 200 guineas could easily be got for him now as he won the two principal events at Marlborough without once being extended. On his first day's form he could easily have been penalised a stone and a half but being only risen 10lb the race was a moral for him and the dividend, under the circumstances, was a good one, viz., £1 12s 0d.

The class represented at Marlborough was mostly second and third-rate. A number of the entrants were somewhat backward in condition and ran very

green. They declined to face the barrier and when they did start ran off the course, and generally made a burlesque of "the sport of Kings."

The Hon. Geo. McLean has paid Mr W. Davis, the veteran Hutt trainer, a high compliment by sending him a couple of highly-bred yearlings to educate and train for their next season's engagements. They consist of a colt by Lord Rosslyn—Escopeta and a filly by Lord Rosslyn—Komuri. The same owner has an additional four yearlings which will receive their education at the hands of J. McGuinness, at Wingatui.

With the exception of Ballarat, Kohunui, Levant, Shrapnel Shell and Sierra, who will probably go to Wanganui, the Hutt-trained horses will be freshened up for the Otaki Meeting, which takes place on the 3rd and 4th of next month. The Maori executive have issued a most liberal programme, the added money amounting to £1200. There are two open races each day, the principal event being the Raukawa Cup of 170sovs. Nominations for all events close on May 19th. Messrs C. H. Chavannes and J. H. Pollock act in the respective capacities of starter and handicapper.

The declaration of the handicaps for the Wanganui and Auckland Steeplechase Meetings remind us that the flat racing season is nearing its close. I have hitherto made a few comments on Mr Evett's winter productions, and possibly your readers like to know how they are received at this end. The handicaps for the Wanganui Jumping events are considered fairly equitable adjustments. Cannongate and Hadyn are no doubt in a class by themselves, but are not overburdened. The latter with 11st 9lb fell at the Wanganui double jump last year when going well, and subsequently won the Great Northern Steeplechase with 11st 6lb beating Cannongate, 12st 7lb, by ten lengths. The latter now meets Hadyn on 13lb better terms, which should bring them closer together, albeit I would prefer Hadyn, who, it will be remembered, ran a good third in the C.J.C. Grand National Steeplechase with 12st 4lb, and a couple of days later won the Lincoln Steeplechase with 12st 9lb. Cannongate has run well over hurdles quite recently, but over a distance of country will find it difficult to concede Hadyn 3lb.

Pipi, who just beat Hadyn in the C.J.C. Grand National, now meets the Auckland horse on 14lb worse terms, which I fancy will settle his chance. Slow Tom, I am told, is a most proficient chaser, his former owner, Miss Button, frequently rode him over all descriptions of country, and at 10st 11lb has a handy weight. Of the others, Killarney, Pharos, and Hutana, have pace and jump well, and with their handy imposts should keep the top-weights moving. Hadyn, Slow Tom, Hutana and Killarney please me best.

The Century Hurdle Handicap finds the veteran Waiwera top-weight with 2lb more than he was beaten with last year. The heaviest burden Waiwera has carried to victory in a first-class hurdle race is 11st 4lb under which impost he won the C.J.C. Grand National Hurdle Race last August. He was beaten out of place at Wanganui and Auckland with 11st 5lb, and after winning the Grand National he made no sort of a showing when set to carry 12st 9lb in the Sydenham Hurdles won by Huku.

Spalpeen is a young improving horse, and with 12st 6lb he won the Ponsonby Hurdles at the Auckland Summer Meeting. He is rightly placed at 12st 4lb, but as he is a couple of pounds better treated at Auckland his owner may not risk a journey to Wanganui. Slow Tom, 11st 2lb, is well enough handicapped from the top-weight, but may have most to fear from those placed below him. Hadyn, 10st 10lb, has a tempting weight for a Grand National Hurdle race winner. Killarney will also be hard to beat, whilst if Ranana has had sufficient schooling he should win outright, with only 9st 10lb to carry. Slow Tom, Hadyn, Killarney and Ranana are worth following.

The Connolly Handicap does not bear evidence of having been carefully compiled. With 4lb more than Mr Evett sets him to carry, Convoy won a mile and a quarter handicap on the second day of the Feilding Easter Meeting. He then gave Shrapnel 12lb and held him safe a furlong from home. On 3lb worse terms Shrapnel seems badly treated, especially as the pair have not appeared in public since. Full Cry is also hardly dealt with, for too much notice has been taken of the latter's Egmont win as he beat nothing of much class there. Last time he met Cannie Chiel he failed to concede him 3lb. How he is going to give him 5lb in the race under notice is a puzzler. Exmoor is about in his place, and had he not run a couple of good seconds at the Wellington Meeting, would probably have been placed several pounds still further below Shrapnel and Cannie Chiel. Most racing men will agree that the public form of the latter pair is considerably better than that of the Porirua colt.

Wolfe's

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