

A fine field of fourteen are listed to compete in the First Pony Handicap, five furlongs, and in the absence of the cracks Inspiration heads the list. On Avondale form she ought to very nearly win, but I prefer them as follows:—

GIRTON GIRL
INSPIRATION
LADY LOTTIE

The next event is the big race of the day, the Empire Handicap, one mile and a-quarter, which has drawn thirteen acceptances. Geordie heads the list, but has not shown his true form for some time, Durable should run well, while Putty at his best would take some beating. Dolores is very uncertain, but has done well on this course before now. To my mind Avalanche is the pick of the handicap, for at Avondale with but two pounds less she fairly lost the field, and on that day would have won by just as far even over the extra two furlongs. On that form she ought to hold Scotty safe, as they meet on exactly the same terms, although the Soutl mare beat Mr Stewart's gelding by nearly ten lengths. Newtown and Idasa may both run well, but the places may go to

AVALANCHE
DURABLE
DOLORES

Eight are down to play their parts in the First Hurdles, two miles, and it is somewhat doubtful which will start. In the probable absence of Spalpeen, Ake Ake and Val Rosa, I will take the place-getters to be

PRINCESS OF THULE
HIPPOWAI
TAHAE

The Maiden Steeplechase, two miles and a-half, follows, and for this there are eleven acceptors. The event looks very open, but all going well places may fall to

PAPATU
MOCASSIN
LADY BELL

The first day's programme will be brought to a close with the Royal Handicap, five furlongs, for which no less than nineteen have accepted. As the race starts on a bend Mr Hankens will have his work cut out to get such a field away on anything like even terms. With anything like a bit of luck at the start it may be that the finish will be fought out by

AUSTERLITZ
BOTHER
SONOMA

with Geologist close handy.

NEW ZEALAND RACING CONFERENCE APPEAL BOARD.

The following is the full text of the findings delivered by the Appeal Board of the New Zealand Racing Conference (Sir W. Russell, M.H.R., Mr F. Logar and Mr G. Hunter) in the cases presented at the recent sitting at Napier:—

CONVOY-GLADSONE CASE.

The judges find that the mare Gladstone was ridden in the Wellington Cup and Racing Club Handicap at Wellington by F. D. Jones, who, although properly apprenticed and having served for over a period of twelve months, did not hold an apprentice's license.

Rule 143 (1) expressly states that only holders of jockeys' and apprentices' licenses shall be qualified to ride, and sub-section 2 of the same rule provides that apprentices' licenses shall be issued free. Sub-section 4 of the same rule provides that on application for a license the applicant shall forward to the secretary of the jockey club in the district in which he resides the necessary fee and fill in the proper application form. A form of application for an apprentice's license is set out at the end of Rule 143.

Sub-section 6 of Rule 143 provides that all licenses shall expire on July 31 in each year. Sub-section 8 of Rule 143 defines the meaning of apprentices, and provides that no apprentice shall ride in any race until he has served one year of his apprenticeship, and later on states that an apprentice may ride in any race "save as herein otherwise provided during the term of his apprenticeship."

The judges are of opinion that in the face of the express provision of sub-section 1 of Rule 143, which states that only holders of jockeys' and apprentices' licenses shall be qualified to ride, supported as it is by the other sub-sections above referred to, an apprentice is only qualified to ride after he has served one year of his apprenticeship and after he has applied for and has obtained and holds at the time of riding a license from the jockey club (as defined by Rule No. 1 of the Rules of Racing).

Were this not so, apprentices after having served one year would be able to ride in any race, notwithstanding the fact that if they were jockeys they might not have the slightest chance of obtaining licenses at the hands of the jockey club. They might remain apprentices for ever. It is the fact of being licensed that permits and allows jockeys and apprentices to ride, and nobody is, in the opinion of

the judges, entitled to ride unless the holder of a license.

Throughout the rules—by way of example, see Rules 79, 84, 90, and 116—the word "jockey," in order to have any sensible application, must be taken to mean a licensed rider, and the judges are of opinion that a sub-section 7 of Rule 143 the term "unlicensed jockey" must be interpreted as covering an unlicensed apprentice.

The judges therefore uphold Mr Young's appeal.

PLATYPUS-BENEFACITOR CASE.

The judges uphold the appeal of Mr Knox, the owner of Platypus, which ran second to Benefactor in the Pahiatua Cup, run at Pahiatua on January 27, 1904, on the same grounds as are set out in the judgment in the Convoy-Gladstone case, as the rider of Benefactor had not at the time of winning the race been apprenticed for a period of twelve months.

D. MCKINNON V. AUCKLAND RACING CLUB.

In this case it is admitted that the horse Beddington was the joint property of Messrs L. D. and N. A. Nathan, and was entered in and ran under their joint names in the Sylvia Handicap on January 2, 1900, and that no deed of partnership in the said horse was registered at that date with the secretary of the Conference, as required by section 59a of the Rules of Racing, 1900, but no suggestion was made of any concealment of the partnership or joint ownership.

No objection was lodged with the Auckland Racing Club until December 11, 1903—three years and eleven months after the running of the race.

Rule 116 of the Rules of Racing, 1900, provides that an objection on the ground of fraud or wilful mis-statement or omission in the entry under which a horse has run may be received at any time within twelve months after the race, and Rules 113, 115, and 117 (1900) define the time during which such objections may be received.

The question for decision is whether the time during which an objection can be raised on the ground of non-registration of partnership deed had elapsed at the date the objection was first made.

As Rule 116, 1900, defines the period after which no appeal can be made on the most serious ground of fraud or wilful mis-statement or omission as that of twelve months, and the other rules limit definitely the period during which other complaints or objections can be made, it appears evident that the intention of the rules is not to permit of objections such as is made by Mr McKinnon being received in any case at a later date than twelve months after the running of the race.

The judges therefore dismiss the appeal.

INTER-PROVINCIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

CANTERBURY.

Christchurch, May 18.

Machine Gun and Golden Lily returned home last week.

Lady Lillian failed to show her usual brilliancy at Ashburton, and it is evident this beautiful mare has not regained the form she showed this time a year ago. I am told Lady Lillian will be kept up to the collar in view of the Oamaru Meeting later in the month. Silkworm is at the top of the list of winning two-year-olds for the season. Silkworm won six races, his stake money amounting to £1799. Stronghold with five wins annexed £1045 in stakes. The other winners are as follows:—Golden Lily, three wins, £925; Boris, two wins, £890; Tessera, three wins, £455; Ailsa, four wins, £445; Peau Seaton, two wins, £445.

The decision of the Court of Appeal of the Racing Conference in the Gladstone-Convoy case has formed the subject of much criticism during the past few days. Mr J. Reid, who is the principal party affected, has been the recipient of many telegrams from sportsmen throughout the colony conveying expressions of regret. It is stated that neither Sir Geo. Clifford nor Mr S. Bradley will claim the stakes for the Great Northern Derby and Auckland Plate. The decision of the judges came as a surprise to many Christchurch sportsmen, but it is very plain that the decision could not have been otherwise, seeing that the rules pro-

vide that an apprentice must take out a license before he is qualified to ride.

Mr H. Friedlander has definitely decided to retire from racing, and will in future confine his attention to his breeding establishment in Ashburton.

The defeat of Machine Gun in the Hawke's Bay Stakes was a severe blow to followers of the yellow jacket.

The Canterbury horses fared very badly at the Northern Meeting, failing to score a win.

Djin Djin had a bad fall in the Winchmore Handicap, at Ashburton, but apparently he escaped injury. Since returning from Ashburton the son of Dudu has been running in the paddock.

Mr J. Taggart will leave for Auckland with Slow Tom to-morrow. All going well Slow Tom will be a starter in the Northern Steeplechase and Hurdle Race. The horse has shown ability to jump big fences, but he will probably fail to stay the journey in the Steeplechase. I am inclined to favour his chance in the Hurdle Race, in which he will be hard to beat if specially reserved for that race.

Seaton Delaval heads the list of winning sires among the two-year-olds, his progeny gaining £2592. Glanrauld is second with £1763, Stepiak third with £1890. Seaton Delaval has now topped the list three years in succession.

Mr Sam Brown will be represented in the Wanganui Steeplechase by Victory, and by Roller in the Century Hurdle Race.

WELLINGTON.

Wellington, May 15.

A subject of much discussion in sporting circles is the Convoy-Gladstone case. The majority disagree with the final decision inasmuch as the judges had to assume that the term jockey also meant apprentice. Now, if the terms jockey and apprentice are synonymous, then journeyman and apprentice must also mean one and the same thing. Rule 143 (1.) alludes to them as separate persons, and states that only holders of jockey's and apprentice's licenses shall be qualified to ride, but there is nothing to set forth what the penalty is for committing a breach of this rule. The New Zealand Trotting Conference realised this and added a clause, which set forth that "any rider or driver who not holding a license shall ride, shall be fined any sum not exceeding £20—or may be disqualified." This punishment applies only to the rider and is not apparently meant to be visited on the owner of the horse ridden by an unqualified rider. The judges of the Racing Conference finding no power in their Rules of Racing to punish the unqualified rider of Gladstone evidently consider someone should be punished, and proceed to fine the owner of Gladstone the value of the stakes won by his filly when ridden by an unlicensed apprentice. The Trotting Association judges would have punished the rider only unless it was clear that the owner had corruptly conspired with the rider so commit a breach of the rules, when he also would probably be fined. The ruling of the Conference Appeal Board is contrary to equity, and few racemen will agree that the framers intended that such a construction as that of the Appeal Board should be put on these rules which they rely on to support their decision.

The Hawke's Bay Meeting was a disastrous one for the stables presided over by the veterans E. Cutts and J. Mason. Cannie Chiel on his Manawatu running looked something akin to a moral for the Hawke's Bay Cup but ran one of his bad races and finished out of a place. Treadmill, another of Cutts' charges, contracted a severe cold and was unable to start in the Hawke's Bay Stakes, whilst Tessera met more than her match in the Soutl filly Solution in the Nursery Handicap.

Mason's pair, Machine Gun and Golden Lily were considered certain to run first and second in the Stakes, but Boris (who was unable to get a place in the North Island Challenge Stakes behind Martian), vigorously ridden by Geo. Price, made all the running and just lasted long enough to beat Machine Gun, who, on this occasion was given a taste of the whip and was finishing faster than the winner. Boris' win is considered a lucky one as he was tiring fast, and a few strides past the post Machine Gun passed him. The win of the Porirua colt was a skimmer for the local starting-price layers his victory apparently not being anticipated by his party.

Most sportsmen were pleased to see Harry Goodman provide a winner with the filly Solution. Her owner and his friends expected her to win, and she was spiritedly supported in Wellington and elsewhere. Her owner, R. W. Paterson, would probably have been pleased had the filly been engaged in the Hawke's Bay Stakes, as on her first day's form she would have made a good showing.

W. Davis has been schooling Kohinui over steeplechase fences and he jumps fairly well. Davis will be represented at Wanganui with Kohinui and Ballarat. Levant, Lissa and Shrapnel Shell, a trio of Hutt-trained horses, will also represent their respective stables. All the horses named are in capital condition and should give a good account of themselves.

Warwick, who recently joined Mr Jorgenson's team, is taking kindly to jumping. He and Benefactor are occasionally schooled in company, and shape well for novices at the illegitimate game.

Mr D. Thomson, owner of Kremlin, The Guesser and Tomahanga, contemplates taking up his residence at Palmerston North. He intends having his horses trained on the Awapuni course as soon as suitable accommodation for them can be secured.

Messrs R. Mason, W. Cutts, and J. McGuiness, passed through on their way homewards with Machine Gun, Golden Lily, Treadmill, Tessera, Cannie Chiel, and Ailsa. With the exception of Cannie Chiel, who may be taken on to Dunedin for the Winter Meeting, they will go into winter quarters on reaching their respective destinations.

The Wanganui Meeting takes place on Tuesday next. The following should be worth following:—Flying Handicap: Black Reynard, Ballarat, Delania.

Grandstand Steeplechase: Hutana, Kohinui, Pharos.

Century Hurdles: Hadyn, Killarney, Lissa.

Connolly Handicap: Black Reynard, Exmoor, Shrapnel Shell.

For the Steeplechase which is run on the second day of the meeting, Hadyn and Hutana should furnish the winner.

OTAGO.

Dunedin, May 17.

The Ashburton Meeting, held last week, was a fairly successful gathering, and some interesting sport was witnessed during the two days. The attendance on the second day showed a slight fall. off on that of the opening day on account of the fact that very heavy rain was falling in Christchurch, which prevented many of the Northern sports journeying South. To show how prohibition has affected the town, it need only be remarked that the majority of the Southern visitors preferred to travel right through to Christchurch and do the meeting from that city by travelling up and down each day in preference to living in a town where every visitor is looked upon as a possible informer.

The principal race on the first day was won by Secret Society, who traversed the journey of the race in excellent style, but he succumbed on the following day to Terrapin, partly owing to the fact that he got blocked when making his final effort, and partly because the Tempest gelding was kept a bit too far out of his ground before turning for home.

Amongst the riders who wore silk at the Ashburton Meeting were two lilliputian princes of the pigskin in V. Cotton and G. Cotton, sons of T. Cotton, who a number of years ago deserted Dunedin for Auckland.

In the seventies and eighties the Cottons (J. and T.) were amongst the best known riders in the colony, and were a pair of daring horsemen on the flat and over fences. T. Cotton won the First D.J.C. Forbury Handicap, in 1871, on Catapult, and J. Cotton won the Second D.J.C. Birthday Handicap, in 1874, on Little Nell (by the way, James Cotton is still riding over fences this season). V. Cotton is a pronounced Sloanite, and has already won his spurs as a capable rider. He did not catch the judge's eye as a winner at Ashburton, but his horse-

AFTER TWENTY-ONE YEARS.

One would be inclined to believe that it would be impossible to cure a disease that had clutched its victim for twenty-one years. But Rheumo conquers chronic rheumatism. Mr E. M. Rudman, of Collingwood-street, Nelson, writes:—"It gives me great pleasure to be able to say that by using your wonderful medicine Rheumo I have been completely cured of gout and rheumatism, of which I have been a sufferer for the past twenty-one years. I may say I have not had the slightest symptoms for the past two years, and feel convinced it is a permanent cure."

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