

Plain Bill in their best day would hold such horses safe at a difference of three stone, but their present form, however, is merely a matter of conjecture.

The Parliamentary Handicap, the principal flat event on the programme, has drawn a good nomination. Cannie Chiel, Exmoor, Regulation, Kremlin, Putty, Fleka, Durable and Shrapnel Shell are useful handicap horses.

The Hack events have filled well, and include a number of well-bred horses that under the present rules will shortly be out of hack company.

Owing to the recent wet weather local horses have been unable to do much fast work, and unless we have some fine weather the visiting horses will have a decided advantage in respect to condition. The caretaker of the course is doing his best to provide working ground for trainers, and with a few days drying weather fast work can be resumed.

The substitution of hack hurdle events for the Hack and Hunters' Steeplechases has proved a step in the right direction. The twenty-five nominations include several new aspirants for jumping honours. Posture, Clovelly, Little Turk, Rungarawa and others will make their maiden efforts over hurdles.

Under careful tuition it is astonishing how quickly flat racers become proficient over hurdles. In the Hack Hurdle Handicap at the Hawke's Bay meeting Ostiak, Ia and Warwick made their first public appearance over hurdles, and the trio jumped cleverly. Ostiak was only prevented from winning owing to his heavy impost. Ia, the winner, gave a capital exhibition of jumping, as did Warwick, who finished third. The latter has not done a great deal of schooling, but Arnott, who rides him, has however quickly taught him to jump both quick and cleverly.

A visitor to Hawke's Bay speaks highly of Creusot, who, according to all accounts, ought to have won on the first day. He was kept to far out of the race and was going much faster than the winner after crossing the last hurdle. On the second day he won without an effort. As he is built on weight-carrying lines, he should soon earn a position amongst the top weights.

Roseshoot is reported in a bad way. He cut one of his legs at Wanganui, and this interfered with his Auckland preparation. On his return to Hawke's Bay his leg was swollen right up past the stifle and he will require to rest for a while.

Mr Chadwick's Handicaps for the Wellington Winter Meeting were declared today. In awarding The Guard 12.6 the handicapper has been guided by past deeds, but I have no doubt that a public performance of Mr Prosser's horse will satisfy racing men that The Guard is too infirm to stand a preparation.

Haydn, 11.3, is nicely treated with 3lb less than he carried in the Wanganui Steeplechase, which he won easily. Eclair, whom he defeated then, meets Haydn on 9lb worse terms. Although Eclair subsequently finished in front of Haydn in the Winter Steeplechase at Auckland, I prefer Haydn when meeting him on 11lb better terms. Plain Bill, like The Guard, will have to demonstrate that he retains some of his form ere his chance is worth discussing.

Slow Tom, 11.0, is given the impost he had when he fell at the last fence in the Winter Steeple. As he meets Haydn on 5lb worse terms the Wellington Club's Handicapper must have been much impressed by his running. Nevertheless, he is not so well treated as Haydn.

Kiatere ran prominently in three events at Auckland, but defeated moderate horses only, and is rather close to Haydn.

Moccasin has been penalised for his lucky win in the Great Northern Steeple. Haydn, Papatu, and Cannongate fell, whilst Slow Tom was ridden in an ill-judged race. The first-named pair and Slow Tom should beat Moccasin should they meet over the Wellington course.

Aka Aka has a nice impost, and if he negotiates the Hutt course may prove Haydn's most dangerous opponent.

Pipi and Princess of Thule could not have been placed nearer the minimum.

Comfort, Midea and Evening have handy imposts, but will require more experience.

Victory is a good fencer, but has only a jumper's chance. Those below Victory are moderate performers, and on Hawke's Bay form must be held safely by Mr Brown's old plodder. From the above it will be gathered that Haydn, Slow Tom, Papatu, Aka Aka and Victory are five that should include the winner, and I prefer the first three in the order named, with the proviso that Aka Aka should beat them if he fences cleanly.

The Winter Hurdle Handicap is framed on a flattering scale. Few will cavil at Waiwera being dropped in the scale of weights. Slow Tom, Aka Aka, Catherine Gordon, Creusot, The Guesser and Talune should prove Waiwera's most dangerous opponents.

The Flat Handicaps can be discussed in your next issue.

OTAGO.

Dunedin, June 29.

A cable received from Melbourne yesterday by the writer says that the Monowai, which left here last week with a shipment of valuable horses, experienced a bad passage, and that seven of the animals were lost on the voyage. Amongst them was the well-known racehorse Nihilist, who was one of the first of Stepaniak's stock to race. He was a well-bred and attractive-looking horse, and was to be placed on the Melbourne market as a stallion. During his turf career Nihilist won several races in good company.

The one-time Dunedin trained hurdler, Evening Wonder, was amongst the starters at a recent Adelaide meeting, but ran last in this race.

R. Ellis, who has been identified with many of the past victories of St. Denis, Red Lancer, and other horses, recently received three new tenants for his boxes in the shape of a couple of geldings by Casket out of Tangi Maid, a sister to the New Zealand Cup winner Wolverine, and a half-sister by Captive to the well-performed mare Flower o' Clutha.

St. Denis is also to be taken in hand again in the course of a few days.

The Dunedin-owned horses Valdimir, Pampero, Blackstone, Blazer and Petrovna figure amongst the list of nominations received for the Winter Cup.

Mr J. Loughlin has opened a treble event book on the C.J.C. National Hurdles, Steeplechase and Winter Cup, and the ruling price is 200 to 1 any way not gone.

Mr A. Moss has received a private cable from Melbourne stating that Canteen's weight in the Caulfield Cup is 7st 13lb, and in the Melbourne Cup 8st.

The Hon. Geo. McLean's colt Sychem has been sent to Wellington, and is now an inmate of W. Davis' stable. The change of scene may bring about a change of manners, but until that improvement is effected the colt's public displays will never equal what he has frequently shown in private, but declined to reproduce when carrying silk.

Hostage, owned by Mr Hyland, the well-known circus proprietor, figures amongst the nominations for the C.J.C. Grand National Hurdles. The circus is at present wintering at Geraldine. Hostage was got by Wellesley (brother to the Panic horse Wellington), and should he go to the post he will not be the worst looking horse in the field, as he has taken high honours in the show ring. The Wellesley gelding has done a lot of racing in Australia, and won several races at the back blocks meetings.

At a committee meeting of the North Otago Jockey Club, held on Saturday last, the President (Mr C. W. Reid) presiding, it was resolved to hold the annual meeting on Wednesday, July 13, at 1.30 p.m., a sub-committee being appointed to draw up the annual report, the same to be published. The secretary reported that the profit over the Winter Meeting amounted to £250. It was resolved to vote the secretary a bonus of £20, and that the committee record its appreciation of his work for the past year, the same to be recorded in the minutes.

The Victorian-bred hurdler Victor II., Red Ronald (the half-brother to Red Lancer), and the Sou'Wester gelding Southerly Buster are in the private sale list.

The American trotting stallion Del Paso, who was bred at the famous Rancho Del Paso Stud, California, by Mr J. B. Haggin, is advertised for private sale. Del Paso has sired some good performers, including George L., Jim, Xerxes, and Gossoon, and as he is a fine big upstanding horse of attractive appearance, he should command a ready sale.

It is almost impossible to gauge the value of fast jumping, as compared with pace in a race over big timber (writes "Martindale," in the "Town and Country Journal"). Be a horse ever so fast, his pace is greatly discounted if he loses time at the obstacles. Skylark, for instance, in his recent races at Randwick, appeared to gain a couple of lengths at each fence, and as he is reputed to possess only a very moderate share of pace, his fast jumping doubtless enabled him to secure both second prizes. Presuming that he gained two lengths at every obstacle, it would mean an advantage of about forty lengths in the three mile race. The slowest jumper was probably Teamster, and it is difficult to estimate what Skylark gained on him when they were in the air. The main thing in a steeplechaser is fast fencing. This was long ago recognised by such experts as the late Tom Corrigan, J. Scobie, T. Wilson, Bob Howie, sen., and Alec Taylor. At Dowling Forest it used to be the custom, and probably now is, in training to rattle chasers along at top pace over a few fences in front of which had been laid a roll of furze bush, to induce big take-offs. This treatment probably was responsible for the many successes gained by Ballarat stables in Nationals of the past.

TROTTING.

The recent Winter Meeting of the Auckland Trotting Club was generally voted one of the most enjoyable the club has ever organised. The reason of this was not far to seek. It was no new experience to have the gathering well conducted, for the Auckland Trotting Club can always be relied upon in this respect, the officials being not only experienced, but they are also possessed of that rarer virtue, courtesy. What made the latest meeting so memorable, however, was the fact that it was held on a well-appointed racecourse, and the successful result must have convinced the sceptics that a properly conducted trotting meeting can command quite as much patronage as a race meeting. The attendance on the concluding day of the Auckland Trotting Club Meeting, despite the fact of it being an "off day" in the winter, was possibly the largest yet seen at a trotting meeting in Auckland, a great many ladies being included among the spectators. If I was asked once I was asked a dozen times why the Trotting Club does not always hold the meetings at Takapuna, but I haven't been able to find a satisfactory answer yet. Strong efforts should undoubtedly be made to bring this desirable state of things to pass.

Mr W. Rollitt, secretary of the New Zealand Trotting Association, is at present, I regret to hear, laid up with an attack of pneumonia.

No better illustration could be obtained of the progress that has been made in connection with trotting in New Zealand than is gained from a study of the balance-sheet of the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club (says the "Canterbury Times"). The receipts for the year amounted to £13,965 12s, nominations and acceptances accounting for £2417 17s 6d, totalisator £8327 1s 6d, and gates £2017 18s. On the other side, stakes swallowed up £8676 10s, the Government totalisator tax £1316 7s 7d, while permanent improvements, and buildings, etc., cost a further sum of £1439 3s. On top of all this, the club finished the year with a balance of £1732 14s 11d, of which £500 has been placed on fixed deposit. The liabilities are nil, and the assets, after being substantially written down, are given at £8217 14s 11d.

At Greenwich Park, Aintree (England) last month, a Champion Free-for-all Scratch Trotting Race, of £100, caused a lot of trouble. Charley B. won the first two heats, while the third was easily accounted for by the British five-mile record-holder, King of Pearls, who, however, was disqualified for not keeping his place after entering the straight. When the decision was made known the crowd fairly stormed the enclosure, whereupon the stewards held a meeting, and, deeming discretion the better part of valour, decided to allow the original placings to stand, with King of Pearls as winner. That horse then won the next two heats, and took the prize-money. The fastest time recorded for any heat was 2min 10sec, by King of Pearls.

A trotting match took place at Belvidere (S.A.) recently between Mr P. Murphy's horse Sonny, and Mr A. Fry's horse Sparrow, from Belvidere to Langhorne's Creek and back, a distance in all of about 11½ miles. The distance was traversed by the winner, Mr Murphy's horse, in the smart time of 51min, Sparrow finishing close up.

THE TROTTING CONFERENCE.

The following motions appear on the order paper for the Trotting Conference, which will open in Wellington on July 11:—

RULES OF CONSTITUTION.

- By the Masterton Trotting Club—
Rule 1.—Add "Any member so elected and being unable to attend a meeting or meetings of the Association shall have power to appoint a substitute."
- Rule 2.—Strike out "September" in the second line and insert "June" in lieu thereof.
- Rule 3.—Strike out "August" in the fourth line and insert "May" in lieu thereof. Strike out "15th day of September" in the twelfth line and insert "7th day of June" in lieu thereof.
- By the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club—
Rule 7.—Add, after the word "vote," in the fifth line, "No member of the Trotting Association shall be eligible to sit on the Conference except the Chairman, who ex officio shall be entitled to a seat."
- By the South Wairarapa Charitable Trotting Club—
New Rule.—"That in the event of an Club proving it is unable to hold a

meeting on its own course owing to unforeseen circumstances, permission may be given by the Association to hold such meeting on some other course."

- New Rule.—"The Association is empowered to enquire into the affairs of any Club affiliated to the Association and to inspect all books, documents, and papers in connection with any such Club."
- By the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club—
New Rule.—"The Conference is empowered to at any time institute, or hold, an enquiry into the affairs of the Association, or any Club, and may demand the production of any books, documents or information, which may be considered necessary in the holding of such enquiry."
- By the Masterton Trotting Club—
Rule 7.—Add, after the word "Trotting," in the eighth line, "and may review any matter or decision that may have been brought before or dealt with by the Association."
- By the Otahuhu Trotting Club—
New Rule.—"That an executive of the Conference be appointed annually."
- By the New Zealand Trotting Association—
New Rule.—"That any Club having a Totalisator license must be represented at the Annual Conference. Any Club failing to be so represented shall not be recommended for a Totalisator license."
- By the Otahuhu Trotting Club—
Rule 8.—Delete from "all" in the first line to "appeals" in the second line.
- By the New Zealand Trotting Association—
New Rule.—"The Association shall be empowered to appoint a committee of its members to go through the evidence forwarded with any appeal against the decision of any Club with power to refer any new evidence to the said Club, before calling a meeting of the Association to deal with the appeal, the special meeting provided by Rule 11, to be then held seven days after the case is received back from the Club."
- New Rule.—"That the expenses of any enquiry held by the Association respecting any affiliated Club shall be paid by the said Club."
- By the Masterton Trotting Club—
Rule 9.—Strike out the word "September" in the second line, and add the words "between the 7th and 14th day of June" in lieu thereof.
- Rule 10.—Add to rule, "and a copy of such report and balance-sheet shall be placed before each delegate attending the Annual Conference."
- By the Otahuhu Trotting Club—
Rule 10.—Add after the word "Club" in the second line, "and to the executive of the Conference."
- Rule 16.—Add to rule, "It shall be compulsory for the Association to pass the programme of any affiliated Club which has complied with the Rules."
- By the South Wairarapa Charitable Trotting Club—
New Rule.—"That trotting races be not allowed on racing club programmes."
- By the Masterton Trotting Club—
New Rule.—Strike out the words "30th September" in the last line, and insert "15th day of day of June" in lieu thereof.

RULES OF TROTTING.

- By the New Zealand Trotting Association—
Rule 5.—Erase "£175" in the second line and insert "£200" in lieu thereof.
- Rule 6.—Erase "£125" in the second line and insert "£150" in lieu thereof.
- Rule 32.—Add to Rule, "All disqualification imposed by the New South Wales Trotting Club (Sydney), the National Trotting Association (America), or any other bona fide foreign Trotting Club or Association may be endorsed by the Association."
- By the Masterton Trotting Club—
Rule 49.—After the word "paid" in the fifth line, add the words, "or owing."
- Rule 62.—After the word "upon" in the first line, add "its rider or driver." Strike out the word "his" in the first line, and substitute "the horses" after the word "and" in the second line, add the words "the owner or nominator of such horse."
- Rule 99.—Add to Rule, "But in the event of any complaint being made by the starter it shall not be necessary to deposit any fee."
- Rule 106.—Add to Rule, "and his name may be placed on the Defaulters' List and published in the Official Calendar."
- Rule 117.—Add after the word "Club" in the fourth line, "or Trotting Club."
- By the New Zealand Trotting Association—
Rule 117.—Add to Rule, "The performances of the said horse may be endorsed upon the back of the certificate issued by any such Club."