

## AFTER THE RACES.

### WELLINGTON RACING CLUB'S WINTER MEETING

The executive of the Wellington R.C. must include a Jonah amongst their number. The weather invariably remains fine until the day prior to the meetings and then down comes the rain, and the success of their gathering is seriously interfered with. Visitors from a distance are, consequently, deterred from putting in an appearance; many townspeople will not venture on the journey between the train terminus and the Hutt Park grandstand in inclement weather. On the present occasion heavy rain fell the night previous to the first day's racing, and rendered the going very heavy, whilst all the morning a persistent light rain fell. The attendance was, notwithstanding, fairly good.

His Excellency, Lord Plunket and suite, the Hon. J. Carroll, Sir William Russell, Sir George Clifford, Mr Geo. E. Stead chairman of the Canterbury J.C., and a large number of legislators and delegates to the Racing and Trotting Conferences were present. The grandstand was also well patronised by the fair sex, who braved the elements probably more out of deference to His Excellency than from any desire to witness the racing. Mr Whyte, the secretary, had ample preparations made for the comfort of the Club's patrons. The catering of Mr and Mrs King, of Auckland, in no small way tended to make up for the discomforts visitors have to put up with at the Hutt racecourse in inclement weather.

The double totalisator was a source of attraction, and many tried their hand at picking doubles for the first time. The sum of £669 was invested, all manner of combinations being backed. The winning double was picked by twenty-five persons, who received each £28 ss. Had Tupara got his head in front of Tahae at the finish of the Winter Hurdle Race, his owner, Mr F. Watson, and Mr Donald Fraser (breeder of Advance) would have scooped the pool (£600) for one sovereign, these two sportsmen being the sole investors (10s each) on the combination Kaitere and Tupara.

There is no doubt but that public double betting will become popular with the public, and this will probably tend to increase that class of business with bookmakers. The mechanical double bettor gives a start with the first leg of the double, and investors from a distance thus get a run for their money.

The totalisator turnover for the meeting, even including the sum put through the double totalisator, was £15,677, a decrease of £2517 as compared with last year. This year is the lowest since 1899, when the sum handled was £14,149. The record was reached in 1901, when £21,765 was invested with the totalisator.

The racing was interesting, inasmuch as the Wellington Steeplechase and Winter Hurdles is generally the key to the Grand National Hurdles and Steeplechase. The heavy state of the track did not suit Haydn; nevertheless he ran a real good race. His rider kept him in a good position throughout the race, but when called upon for a final effort he was palpably tiring and could not respond. Kaitere is built on better lines than Haydn for heavy going, and with his advantage in weight never left the issue of the race in doubt. Crespin ran well and took his fences cleanly but was outstayed by the winner.

Papatu on the first day hit several fences hard, which somewhat interfered with his chance. Aka Aka fenced well for a beginning and will make a capital steeplechaser. He was well up with his field throughout the race and finished just behind Papatu. Star jumped and galloped fast for over two miles, but failed to stay. The exhibition given by the half-dozen Auckland horses who had the race all to themselves was a capital one, and was much appreciated by the onlookers.

The Winter Hurdle Handicap was not quite so exciting. Tahae and Tupara, aided by their handy imposters, staved off all opposition before they reached the turn for home. Pushful and Catherine Gordon were with them for a mile and a-half, but were eased up when pursuit was hopeless. Lissa, who ran third, was a dozen lengths behind the leaders, and was probably the only other horse ridden right out. Creusot and Waiwera seemed unable to act in the mud, and toiled in the rear from the fall of the flag.

The flat events were only remarkable for the number of starters. Kremlin, Okoari, Regulation, Scotty, Annie Chiel,

and Loch Erin were a class by themselves, for numbers of others were started that would be more at home in less select company. As a well-known Auckland trainer remarked their prospects would not have induced him to pay riding fees, even had their owners offered him the whole stake in return. Such horses, however, help to provide sport and aid the coffers of the clubs.

Kremlin, Loch Erin, and Annie Chiel won their races without being extended.

Okoari, at a disadvantage of two stone, was just defeated by the well-bred Repulse after a good race. Possibly had Mr Watson's mare been more forward in condition the verdict would have been reversed.

Ia, of the hack candidates, was a triton amongst the minnows. This mare will run well in any company.

Ice would probably have won the Mirimar Hack Handicap had she not been crowded in and thrown over the rails.

A number of well-bred horses ran in the hack events but failed to display form beyond mediocre. Their capabilities can be gauged when it is noted that the pony Mataura more than held her own with them.

The second day's racing was only noticeable from the fact that Tahae and Tupara fought the Hurdle Race over again, the result being reversed. Annie Chiel then bolted with the Winter Oats Handicap with the result that his owner had to interview the stewards re his horse's first day's running. Usually the Canterbury baronet's horses are welcomed with applause when they return to the enclosure after winning. On this occasion Annie Chiel's victory was received in silence, except for some individuals (who had probably backed the wrong horse) who cried "Put him up," and tendered sundry other advice to the stewards. The stewards duly met, and after hearing Sir Geo. Clifford resolved to accept his explanation of his horse's first day's running as satisfactory. The difference in the state of the course and the weight carried may account for Annie Chiel's erratic display, but in the interest of pure racing the stewards were justified in asking for explanations.

The July Steeplechase gave evidence that Kaitere is more than useful over country, for with his increased impost he ran a good race and had not Papatu fenced much better than he did on the first day Kaitere would have won again. Crespin, on the other hand, fenced slovenly, and lost ground at several fences. Possibly he was feeling the effects of his first day's effort.

Of the other runners Te Kohau jumped well, and will prove useful later on. Star again failed to stay and Mourner ended a somewhat inglorious career by falling at the first fence and breaking his neck.

The Final Hurdle was again a race between Tahae and Tupara. Old Waiwera was dropped to 11st 3lb, but although Cameron rode him vigorously he seemed unable to get near the leaders, but he always acts badly in heavy going. Moccasin also ran badly and also seemed unsuited by the sticky going.

The Australian horse of eighty years ago was a very different animal from the Australian of modern times (says the "Live Stock Journal"). The greater part of the breeding stock in New South Wales had been imported from Cape Colony and from India; verily little judgment was employed in the selection, and very few horses of good quality could have been procured from either place. The consequence (says a writer in 1824) was that "they are principally of the nag kind, and bred without much care. They are not very slightly in appearance, being narrow-chested and sharp-backed, and sadly deficient in the quarters. They have an incurable habit of shying, and they are not very sure-footed." Youatt, in quoting this passage, adds that the New South Wales horses are seldom stabled, but "are supposed to be healthier and better able to endure fatigue when kept in the open air. This, however, is probably only an excuse for neglect." Even so good an authority as Youatt was not aware that horses are all the better for life in the open air.

### BRIEF, BUT POSITIVE.

**MR ALEXANDER MILLER**, the well-known builder, of Roslyn, is not lavish with words. He says what he has to say briefly and to the point. Writing under date May 19, Mr Miller says—"I suffered from rheumatism in my heel for two months, and was cured by Rheumo in two or three days. I can recommend it to any one suffering from the same complaint." It is a volume in a nutshell. Two months' agony cured in two days! "I can recommend it," says Mr Miller. You can believe him. Rheumo is sold by all chemists and storekeepers at 2s 6d and 4s 6d per bottle.

Kempthorne, Prosser and Co., Wholesale Agents.

## INTER-PROVINCIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

### CANTERBURY.

Christchurch, July 20.

First acceptance for the New Zealand Cup is due on August 5th.

It is reported that Red Gauntlet will not be trained for the New Zealand Cup, but will be reserved for the shorter journeys. This is bad news for a number of punters who have already backed the chestnut son of Lochiel for the big race of the year.

Mr G. G. Stead heads the list of winning owners in New Zealand for the past season, his stake money amounting to £6085. Sir G. Clifford is second on the list with £5940. Mr E. J. Watt comes third with £3887 10s, and then follows Mr J. Mountforth with £2540.

Golden Knight, who was to be included in Mr G. G. Stead's team for Australia, has had to be fired, and will not be able to take part in the A.J.C. Derby.

I hear that Mr Stead will send Cruciform, Martian, Grand Rapids and Nightfall over to the A.J.C. Spring Meeting. The team will leave for Sydney in charge of R. J. Mason, on July 29. The above is a formidable quartette, and should at least pick up a few races on the other side.

Slow Tom, who is favourite for the Grand National Steeplechase, was sent over a dozen fences on the schooling track last Saturday. He had Phaetonitis for a companion, but the latter soon came down, leaving Slow Tom to go on by himself. Before completing his task Slow Tom fell at the post and rails. This is the second time he has fallen lately.

Aka Aka, Tahae and Crespin arrived from Wellington to-day.

Papatu was brought down from Wellington on Saturday, and is now located at Murray Hobbs' place.

Huku and The Mohican, who generally do their work together, are jumping well. Huku is going along all right in his preparation, and has been given an excellent chance of winning the National Hurdles with 9st 9lb.

Zealous and Graduated Tax were sent over the hurdles yesterday, jumping nicely. I give the former a good chance in the National Hurdles.

Merry Boy, who arrived from the North on Saturday, was sent over the schooling fences on Monday, jumping very well indeed.

The Seaton Delaval colt, Silkworm, has resumed work again after a lengthy spell, but it is anticipated that Mason will have some trouble with him.

The Cup horse, Oblivion II., is showing improved form, and was sent for a six furlong gallop at a strong pace on Saturday. He shaped well, and is looked upon as a certain starter in the New Zealand Cup.

The weights for the three big handicaps at the Grand National Meeting have occupied the attention of sportsmen this week. In the Steeplechase the winner will, I think, come from Haydn, Kaitere, Aka Aka, and Moccasin. In the Hurdle Race, Roseshoot and Huku read as well as anything, while in the Winter Cup Vladimir, Rapids, Secret Society and Matuku possess winning chances.

Durable was scratched for the Winter Cup at 4 p.m. on Monday.

Auckland sportsmen generally, more especially breeders in that province, will be pleased to hear that Seaton Delaval is at the top of the winning sires for the past season, while Soult occupied second place. Hotchkiss is fourth Stepniak, who was at the top last year, being in third place this season. Seaton Delaval had twenty winners of place-money, the amount opposite his name being £8783. Soult and Stepniak each had thirty-two winners of place-money, their amounts being £6827 and £6397.

### WELLINGTON.

Wellington, July 19.

The recent Racing and Trotting Conferences held at Wellington, were got through more expeditiously than was expected. Consideration of a number of amendments to the rules was obviated through the Racing Conference deciding to appoint a select committee of three to thoroughly revise the whole rules, and consideration of various important matters have thus been deferred. Mr A. Samuel, of the Taranaki Club, having been selected as one of the revising committee, will be in a position to advocate the addition of certain new rules suggested by his club, particularly a new rule providing "that a jockey shall not be weighed out until his riding fee has been deposited with the clerk of the scales." Impecunious riders, when associated with impecunious owners, are tempted to hunt up "punters"—a most undesirable practice—which often leads to wrong doing. Another new rule

proposed by the Taranaki Club, as to the appointment of stipendiary or visiting stewards, is of considerable importance. Should these two proposals be accepted by the revising committee, the public will hear less of jockeys' rings and corrupt racing.

The decision of the C.J.C. to declare the handicaps for the Grand National Meeting a week earlier will enable owners to decide as to the movements of their horses forthwith. A few have already gone South. Haydn and Scotty went last Friday by the Mararoa, which also took the Canterbury visiting horses come. Merry Boy and Papatu have also gone South.

J. Rae, trainer of Kaitere, is at present on a visit to Blenheim, his old home, whither he has not been for the last twenty years, and on his return will, if the weights are suitable, send Kaitere, Ranana and Hinekooa on to Riccarton. Rae himself intends running up to Auckland prior to going South.

Stewart Waddel, with the Hon. J. D. Ormond's team, consisting of Bandmaster, Repulse, and The Stake, and Sir Wm. Russell's steeplechase mare, Nadador, have returned to Hastings, and nothing has been decided as to his visiting the G.N. Meeting.

The owners of Moccasin, Crespin, Star, Tahae, The Guesser and Kremlin will probably send their horses South after the weights are declared.

Waiwera and the other Taranaki horses have been taken to their homes. The former will go South a fortnight hence providing he is all right and his weight pleases his owner.

The Secretary of the W.R.C. informs me that the stakes in the Convoy-Gladstone case have been refunded, and are now held by the Treasurer of the W.R.C., who awaits instructions as to their disposition.

Mr W. Davis has sustained a loss through the death of the horse Smithy. This horse promised well a couple of years back, but although a good jumper he failed to stay, and cost his party a deal of cash during the past two seasons.

The local stables were singularly unfortunate during the recent meeting, Warwick being the only local horse to win a race. Waitarere made a bold bid for the Parliamentary Handicap, but with only 11b concession from that good performer Loch Erne failed to extend him. Ballarat, Shrapnel Shell, Cyrus and Matuku all looked well but failed to score.

### HAWKE'S BAY.

Napier, 15 July.

During the week Mr W. Rathbone, of Waipaua, has disposed of a couple of horses bred by him to Mr Baxter, of Ashburton. Both are four-year-old geldings; one being Thyrsus, a chestnut half-brother by Apremont to Spark and Assayer, the other being Kingdom, a bay colt by King George out of Evandale (Johnny Faulkner—Tasmania).

Melodeon is going satisfactorily in his work, and promises to be well supported for the New Zealand Cup. Though Melodeon in his later efforts has proved himself a sprinter, there is not the slightest doubt he will prove a stayer, for he is moulded on the lines, that in the majority of cases, portray the possession of stamina. He is also bred on staying lines; and during his two-year-old career, always used to show his best at the conclusion of the arguments.

A couple of his stable chums, the rising two-year-olds, Boomerang (Merriwee—Mousquetaire), and King Billy (Merriwee—Indian Queen), have been showing out during the week in short dashes in strong order.

The Wellington Meeting did not provoke much interest in betting circles here, probably owing to the fact that the weather was so ungenerous.

Mr Paul Hunter, brother to the owner of Freeland, Tattle, and Co., had matters all his own way in the English setters' class at the Hawke's Bay Kennel Club's show this week.

The crop of Birkenhead yearlings at Karamu are stated to be a particularly impressive pack, their appearances indicating that the Squire of Karamu, in the near future, will have something high-class to carry his popular all cerise banner.

A. Woods, trainer of Mauro, Hone-whatu, Gold Seal, and others, carried his bat out in the game bantam class at the just concluded poultry show.

It is not often that father and son are seen tilting at one another in the racing arena, but such was the case at the Hutt on Thursday, when Mr G. Ormond's Mouro downed the representative of his father's stable in the Trial Plate. Mr G. Ormond manages his father's station in the Mahia Peninsula, and takes a great interest in the sport. He acted as judge at the last meeting of the Wairoa Racing Club, and generally identified himself with the pastime.

Napier, July 20.

The racehorses Rags and Quilted were sold by public auction at Tattersall's yards, Hastings, on Saturday, both fall-

The miser sat amongst his gold.  
"I would not part," he said,  
"With half-a-guinea, tho' my life  
Were to be forfeited.  
But influenza got him down,  
His breaths grew short and fewer—  
"Take all I've got," he cried, but give  
Me Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.