

Oyster (Mr Swinburn), and Milord (M. McLaughlin), negotiated six flights of hurdles without any mishap. The former is showing improved form.

Oblivion II. was extended over half a mile, which occupied 52½sec, a very good performance. Lee-Enfield ran a mile easily in 1min 55sec, while The Guesser and Balfour negotiated two circuits. Huku travelled once round at three-quarter speed, and Mahutonga, who is looking in good fettle, did steady work.

Sultana, Eurus, and Never Mind separately accomplished useful tasks, while Scottish Minstrel, who arrived yesterday, was out, but did not work.

INTER-PROVINCIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

CANTERBURY.

Christchurch, August 2.

Mr Stead's valuable team of racehorses left for Sydney by Friday's boat with a view to taking part in the Spring Meeting of the Australian Jockey Club. The team consisted of Cruciform, Grand Rapids, Martian, and Nightfall. All going well they should at least bring some Australian money back with them when they return to New Zealand about the end of September.

Cruciform will, of course, take part in some weight-for-age races, the Spring Stakes, which she won last year defeating Wakeful, being probably her first appearance. Her other engagements will most likely be in the Craven Plate and the Randwick Plate.

Martian is in the Epsom Handicap, while he is also likely to take part in other handicaps and perhaps some weight-for-age events.

Grand Rapids' most important engagement is the Metropolitan Stakes, in which it is reported his owner thinks the horse is not badly treated. This in plainer language probably means that Grand Rapids has a good chance of winning that event, at least I think so.

Nightfall will take part in the races for maiden three-year-olds and probably the races for three-year-olds only.

The doings of the team will be watched with considerable interest by New Zealand racegoers, who would delight to see Mr Stead's enterprise in tackling Australians on their own ground two years in succession handsomely rewarded.

Lady Lillian has been suffering from a severe attack of influenza, and it is not thought she will be able to do herself justice at the National Meeting.

In consequence of his good work, more especially his jumping, Aka Aka is now first favourite for the National Steeplechase. Slow Tom, Haydn, and Kaitere are more fancied than any of the others.

The Hurdle Race is regarded still more open and more difficult to pick than the Steeplechase.

Local Option was scratched for all engagements at the Grand National Meeting at 3.45 p.m. on Monday.

Acceptances for the New Zealand Cup are due on Friday. It is expected that there will be a good weeding out.

The scratching of Roseshoot for the Grand National Hurdle Race at 9.25 a.m. on July 27 came as a severe blow to a large number of backers, who had the Hawke's Bay gelding coupled with more than one horse in the Steeplechase.

It is stated that Regulation will not be a starter at the National Meeting, but will be reserved for the Cup Meeting in November.

A week or two back I sorted out Zealous as a likely winner of the Grand National Hurdle Race. During the past week the daughter of Nelson has been doing some capital work, and as she is jumping well her chance in the big race is not to be despised.

Mahutonga and Hippowai arrived from the North on Saturday.

WELLINGTON.

Wellington, July 31.

After all arrangements had been completed for the shipment South last week of Mr Thomson's horses, Kremlin and The Guesser, their departure was delayed owing to rough weather. They were taken back to their boxes, and only got away on the following Thursday. Meanwhile, they have been given strong work on the Hutt tracks, and the delay will not interfere with their condition. Alick Hall and S. Lindsay accompanied them South, and their owner proceeds South on Monday.

Mr W. Smart has definitely decided to send Shrapnel Shell to Riccarton, and he will compete in the Winter Cup. R. Derrett has accepted the mount. Shrapnel Shell seems improved by the racing he underwent at the Wellington Winter Meeting.

Mr Paterson's Lissa leaves to-morrow to fulfil his G.N. engagement in charge

of H. Goodman. Lissa has been well supported in doubles by local sports, and his former owner, Mr Bascovitch, is exceedingly sanguine that the horse will run well.

Matuku and Levant, occupants of C. Pritchard's stable, will take part in the minor events at the C.J.C. G.N. Meeting. Levant has freshened up as the result of a brief respite from work subsequent to the Napier Park Races.

W. Davis will not be represented at the National Meeting this year, as none of his charges are forward enough, probably on account of their mentor feeling disinclined to risk injury by galloping them while the tracks were in bad order.

The Porirua team, I understand, will consist of Waitare and Elibank. The former will run in the Winter Cup, whilst Elibank will be a starter in the Woolston Plate Selling Race. Mr Prosser may not go South himself, in which case C. Jenkins will have charge of the above pair.

Exmoor and Porirua have not done much work recently and will remain at home. Achilles, Ghoorka, and other members of the Porirua team are doing nicely.

The lad, A. McCann, who received a very serious fall whilst schooling The Guard, at Porirua, prior to the Wellington Meeting, continues to remain in the Wellington Hospital. He is still in a bad way, but by latest accounts was on the way towards recovery. Mr Prosser's old chaser had jumped a number of fences in his usual faultless style but appeared to run right into the one that caused the accident, and crashing through rolled on McCann, who was picked up and remained unconscious for some days.

Manawaru has been thrown out of training for a time, but she is quite sound, and will be put in work in the Spring.

Solution, in the same stable, who was recently scratched for the N.Z. Cup, will be kept going in view of Spring events.

The two-year-olds in Goodman's charge are reported to be doing nicely.

Cyrus, winner of the Feilding Cup, together with some brood mares and young stock, are advertised for sale by auction. I have not heard as to whether their owner, Mr G. W. Smart, contemplates retiring from racing. Cyrus should prove useful if properly placed.

Sanfoin and Waimoe, and a number of other performers are also in the sale list. Likely purchasers can obtain particulars if they communicate with "The Old 'Un," care "Freelance" Office, Wellington.

R. J. Mason, the Valhurst trainer, passed through en route to Sydney by the U.S.S. Mokoia on Saturday last. His charges consist of Cruciform, Grand Rapids, Martian and Nightfall, a three-year-old filly by Multiiform—La Notte. The quartette will take part in the A.J.C. Spring events in September. From a brief conversation with Mason, I learnt that Cruciform is much less forward than when she last visited Randwick. When first taken up after her nine months' spell, she showed signs of stiffness after her gallops in the muscles of the quarter where she originally went wrong. Cruciform's mentor, however, decided to test whether she would stand another preparation and strong work was continued, with the result that the stiffness wore off and she now seems perfectly sound. Having done no racing for some time, she cannot, however, be expected to show her best form next month.

Grand Rapids is sound and well, and, if not overestimated by the handicapper, might run well in handicaps at Randwick. Good judges, however, sum him up on his Great Autumn form as a useful animal only.

Martian, although smaller, is the more racy-looking of the pair, but being a light-built animal cannot be expected to shine in big fields. A few bumps during a race would seriously impede his locomotion and Randwick fields are usually very large.

Nightfall is a nice filly and will probably make her debut in the A.J.C. Spring Maiden Stakes. Nightfall is engaged in the Hawke's Bay Guineas, and can be back in New Zealand in time to continue her engagement in that race.

Mr Geo. G. Stead will proceed to Sydney early in September to witness his horses race. When the trip was contemplated the principal object of the visit was to give the colt, Golden Knight, a run in the A.J.C. Derby. He, however, developed a splint and had to be fired. Probably had Cruciform also gone wrong the trip would have been abandoned. L. H. Hewett, the New Zealand jockey now in Australia, will join Mason at Randwick, and ride the horses in their engagements.

Betting in doubles and trebles on the C.J.C. Grand National Meeting continues brisk. 100 to 1 the former, and 100 to 2s 6d the latter, "if not gone," are obtainable. The reports concerning Aka Aka's capital schooling work are causing him to be freely supported for

the Steeplechase; Haydn, in consequence, is not quite so firm. The doubt re Slow Tom's partiality for Steeplechase jumps is causing his admirers to ponder, and it would not surprise me to find Aka Aka absolute first favourite on the day of the race. Kremlin has been heavily supported in doubles, both in the Winter Cup and Hurdle Race. Indeed, it is now difficult to obtain a double wherein a favourite is coupled with Mr Thomson's gelding. Ia is better fancied than Creusot for the Hurdles, while Tahae and Tupara also continue to have a strong following for the same race.

Another stage in the Taranaki racing case has been commenced (says the "Evening Post" of July 30th). It will be remembered that in December last the Taranaki Jockey Club held an enquiry into the running of the horses competing in the hurdle races, with the result that J. O'Connell, the rider of Moturoa, was disqualified for two years. Recently allegations were made by Roberts, the rider of Ranana, charging several persons with "arranging" the races, and a further enquiry was held on 20th June, when Roberts, J. R. Corrigan (owner of Ranana), and H. Paltridge (owner of Pharos) were disqualified for life. Corrigan and Paltridge have instructed Mr Pownall, of Masterton, to appeal against his decision. The appeals have been lodged on the following grounds:—

J. R. Corrigan.—1. That the evidence of the witness Roberts was false and unsupported by corroborative testimony, and contrary to a previous statement made by him. 2. That your appellant is not guilty of any fraudulent or corrupt practice with his horse Ranana, or in connection with the horse Pharos, or any other fraudulent or corrupt practice at the Taranaki Jockey Club's meeting on 26th and 28th December, 1903. 3. That your appellant had no opportunity of adducing evidence before the stewards of the Taranaki Jockey Club. 4. That the telegrams and letters produced as between your appellant and the witness Roberts bore according to code a contrary interpretation to that put upon them by the stewards of the Taranaki Jockey Club. 5. That evidence which can be adduced on behalf of appellant will prove his innocence in the matter.

Hugh Paltridge.—1. That the evidence of the witness Roberts was false and unsupported by corroborative testimony. 2. That the appellant was not guilty of any fraudulent and corrupt practice with his horse Pharos, or concerning the horse Ranana, or any fraudulent or corrupt practice at the Taranaki races held on 26th and 28th December, 1903. 3. That the evidence of the witness Leslie was false and unsupported. 4. That the cheque for £13 of Mr Wyllie, at Waitara, which the witness Leslie alleged he received from the appellant, was handed by the appellant to one Richard Brough for investment on the horse Ranana. 5. That the appellant had no opportunity of producing evidence before the Stewards of the Taranaki Jockey Club. 6. The evidence which can be adduced on behalf of the appellant will prove his innocence in the matter.

The committee of the Wellington Racing Club held their usual monthly meeting to-day. It was resolved that the whole committee proceed this week to inspect a block of land of about 150 acres situated at Silver Stream, on the Wairarapa railway line, sixteen miles from Wellington. The land has been placed under offer to the club at a moderate figure and if suitable will be acquired and a new racecourse laid out. I understand that the committee have had the matter in hand for some time and from enquiries feel satisfied that for an outlay of £20,000 they can procure a thoroughly up-to-date freehold racecourse and all appointments, which will be within forty minutes' journey by rail of the city.

The programme committee recommended that a new club, the Greytown Racing Club, be registered, and the secretary was instructed to forward the recommendation to the Secretary of the Racing Conference. A large number of applications for licenses from trainers and jockeys were also dealt with.

HAWKE'S BAY.

Napier, August 2.

After payment of the first forfeit 33 horses remain in the Napier Stakes, which event forms one of the features of the Spring fixture of the Napier Park Racing Club next October.

Roseshoot's withdrawal from his engagements at the National Meeting was owing to the gelding having contracted a cold, which developed into influenza. Up to last Saturday morning Roseshoot was shaping well in his tasks, but on that date though present on the course he was not exercised as the malady was then making itself apparent.

OTAGO.

Dunedin, August 3.

It has been decided to send Canteen across to Australia to compete in the Melbourne Cup, and in about a month's time the grey will make the journey and go into F. McNamara's stable, where the ex-New Zealander Gladsome is quartered. The son of Castor has only to be in form to run a great race, but his pace is discounted by his temper which he now displays when at the post for his races.

All going well it will be interesting to watch how Wairiki and Canteen emerge from a repetition of their New Zealand Cup battle. Last November, Canteen was about as fit as he could be made, while the Auckland horse was sorely afflicted with dental troubles which undoubtedly prevented him from being as fit as he would otherwise have been. The Soult horse's form in the Auckland Cup showed that he was capable of improving on his New Zealand Cup form, and that being so, wherever Canteen is at the finish of the Melbourne Cup, Wairiki should be in front of him.

Pipi, Phaetonitis and Petrovna, three Dunedinites at present at Riccarton, are doing good work and pleasing the local touts, and each of the trio may prove capable of earning winning brackets at the meeting.

Aka Aka and Haydn are the chief selections made here for the National Steeplechase, and Waiwera, Kremlin and Huku are in big demand for the Hurdles. Both events, however, are regarded as being particularly open.

H. Jackson left yesterday for Wanganui to assume charge of Mr Moore's team.

Blazer and Benmore also make the journey.

The Eurocydon mare, Happy Home, leaves for Christchurch this week, and is reported to be in splendid order. Her trainer, G. Robertson, has also a sister to Happy Home in work.

Mr O. R. Wise has a couple of horses in work at Oamaru in Stepside (Stepniak—Broadside), and Leaside (Eurocydon—Broadside). The former will probably race in the Ladies' Bracelet at the National Meeting.

The North Otago Club are at present making several improvements to their course.

A well-known local sport is preposterously positive that Canteen does not possess a winning chance in the Melbourne Cup, but probably the opinion is founded on the fact that he has supported the grey to win a few hundreds in connection with the New Zealand Cup.

The Hotchkiss horse, Kelburn, has been purchased by the Southern sport. Mr C. White, and will probably be given a light season at the stud prior to being put into work. Kelburn is beautifully bred, being out of the St. Leger mare Lady Augusta, who was out of the Nordenfelt mare Brown Alice, a sister to Strathmore, so that breeders should not hesitate to patronise the horse.

Major Eustace Loder, the breeder and owner of Pretty Polly, has some near relations to the champion filly in a two-year-old full sister, a yearling half-brother by Isinglass, and a filly foal, full-sister to Pretty Polly. The dam of this lot is again in foal to Gallinule.

A relay race to the World's Fair from Albuquerque, N.M., is a project that is under discussion (says an American exchange). F. H. Leland, a veteran cavalryman and a member of General Gomez's Cuban staff, together with William Closson, a well-known rough rider, are backing the scheme. The race will be 1200 miles relay and will be open to cowboys from Arizona and New Mexico.

A Southern paper tells the following amusing story. William Maloney was one of those remarkable men who think that bookmakers exist for the purpose of providing him with untold wealth. Of course he followed this idea to its logical conclusion, with the inevitable result that most of his property had been turned into ready cash in order that he might indulge in the luxury of "backing his fancy." Naturally the landlord had to go without his rent, for landlords are secondary considerations where the sport of kings is concerned. But Maloney knew that his patience was nearly exhausted, and recently, when he expected a call from his natural enemy, he sent a note. "Put a sovereign each way on Disappointer," read the precious missive; "deduct your rent and pay me the balance." The supreme audacity of the request was staggering, but the landlord was one who knew how to reply in kind. "Have a bit on The Bailiff for next week," he wrote on the back of the note. "And," said Mrs Maloney, raising her apron to her eyes, when telling the story, "that was the only tip I ever knew to come off."