



RACING CALENDAR

NEW ZEALAND.

FIXTURES—1904

December 26 and 27—Thames Jockey Club Summer
 December 26 and 27—Northern Wairoa R.C. Summer
 December 26 and 27—Taranaki J.C. Summer
 December 26 and 27—Manawatu R.C. Summer
 December 26 and 27—Dunedin J.C. Summer
 December 28, 29, January 2 and 3—Auckland R.C. Summer
 December 31 and January 2—Greymouth J.C. Summer
 January 2 and 3—Raogitikei R.C. Summer
 January 2 and 3—Hawke's Bay J.C. Summer
 January 2 and 3—Wairarapa R.C. Summer
 January 3 and 4—Southland R.C. Summer
 January 4 and 5—Westland R.C. Summer
 January 21 and 23—Wellington R.C. Summer
 January 23 and 24—Foxton R.C. Annual
 December 26 and 27—Reefton J.C. Summer
 January 23, 30, and February 4—Takapuna J.C. Summer
 February 8 and 9—Taranaki J.C. Summer
 February 9 and 11—Canterbury J.C. Summer
 February 9 and 10—Gisborne R.C. Summer
 February 16 and 17—Poverty Bay Turf Club's Annual
 March 18—Northern Wairoa R.C. Autumn
 April 1 and 5—Avondale J.C. Autumn
 April 22, 24 and 25—Auckland R.C. Autumn

NOMINATIONS.

January 6—Takapuna J.C. Summer, general entries
 January 7—Gisborne R.C.
 January 14—Poverty Bay Turf Club
 February 1—Gisborne R.C. (special events)
 February 4—Poverty Bay Turf Club, special events

WEIGHTS DECLARED.

January 6—Takapuna J.C., special events
 January 13—Takapuna J.C. Summer
 January 21—Gisborne R.C.
 February 10—Poverty Bay Turf Club

ACCEPTANCES

January 27—Takapuna J.C., First Day's Events and Steeplechase
 February 1—Gisborne R.C.

REMINDERS TO OWNERS.

A final payment of 9 sovs for the Auckland Cup and 5 sovs for the G.N. Foal Stakes is due on December 26 at the post.

Nominations for the Great Northern Foal Stakes, to be run at the Summer Meeting of the A.R.C., 1906-7, close on Friday, January 6, at 9 p.m., at which time entries for foals for the 12th Royal Stakes are also due.

General entries for the Takapuna Jockey Club's Summer Meeting must be made to Mr R. Wynyard, the secretary, on or before Friday, January 6, at 9 p.m.

Handicaps for the Takapuna Cup and First Steeplechase will be declared on January 6, at 4 p.m.

General entries for the Gisborne Racing Club's Summer Meeting (other than certain special events) must be made to Mr M. G. Nasmith, the secretary, on or before January 7, at 9 p.m.

Handicaps for the second day's events at the A.R.C. Meeting will be declared on Tuesday, December 27, at noon. Acceptances for the same must be made to Mr Percival, by Wednesday, December 28, at noon.

Handicaps for the second day of the Thames J.C. Summer Meeting will be declared on Monday, December 26, at 9 p.m., and acceptances will be received by Mr W. H. Potts, the secretary, up to 11 a.m. the following day.

Handicaps for the second day's events at the Northern Wairoa R.C. Meeting will be declared at 10 p.m. on Monday, December 26, and acceptances for the same must be made to Mr H. E. Stehr, the secretary, by 9 a.m. on the following day.

General Entries for the Annual Meeting of the Poverty Bay Turf Club must be made to Mr E. L. Maude, the secretary, on or before January 14, at 9.30 p.m. Entries for certain specified events close on February 4.

Sporting and Dramatic REVIEW

Licensed Victuallers' Gazette.
 With which is incorporated the Weekly Standard

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1904.

THE CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL.

JUST as Melbourne is at its best in November, and Sydney is seen to most advantage at Easter, Auckland is gayest during Christmas time. By some accounted rather slow going, a true enough bill at other times, Auckland comes out of her shell, and is then at her very brightest and best. There is no dearth of amusements provided for the visitors who crowd in from the country, and these are given an opportunity of having what is generally known as "a right royal time." First in public estimation comes the big summer carnival of the Auckland Racing Club. This is certain to be well attended, for the race for the Cup always interests the sport-loving community, while other exciting contests are promised at the meeting, an additional attraction being the presence of so many visiting horses from the South. Then, again, there is a variation in the game offered by the three days' fixture of the Auckland Trotting Club, an institution which has done so much for the furtherance of the sport. Many visiting horses will be seen at the meeting, which should be full of interest from end to end.

The great annual sales of the Wellington Park, Cambria Park and Glenora Park yearlings will form a pleasing interlude, and, as these famous breeding establishments are represented by some really magnificent specimens of the young thoroughbred, some high prices should be realised.

To many, who do not care for race meetings and the like, numerous other attractive methods of passing the holidays will suggest themselves. The great fleet of yachts in the Waitemata will one and all desert their moorings, and their white wings will be seen in the beautiful bays which are to be found in so many of the islets of the Hauraki Gulf.

The several playing grounds, too, will be crowded with white-flannelled cricketers engaged in friendly rivalry with each other, a remark which applies with equal truth to the lovers of tennis and of golf. No game has made greater strides in Auckland of recent years than that of bowling, and as the many Auckland clubs are ever ready to welcome players from afar, there should be a great contingent taking their share in the old English pastime.

There are thousands of people who hold that the only sensible way to enjoy a holiday is to have a picnic, and it must be admitted the idea has much to commend it. These will be amply catered for by the fleets of the Northern, Coastal, McGregor and Ferry Companies, as excursions will be run to M. Hurangi, Kawau, Waiwera, Cowes, Motutapu, Rangitoto, Lake Takapuna, St. Helier's and other favourite spots in the Gulf. In the evening there are the theatres to be

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attended, and once again Auckland is fortunate in having good companies at both theatres, which are likely to be filled nightly by over-flowing audiences.

Everything appears to be in trim for Aucklanders and their friends to enjoy themselves during the holidays, that is if the Clerk of the Weather but prove in a kindly mood. The Spring and early Summer has been bad enough to effectually silence those loyal few who are still found thinking that Auckland enjoys a fine climate, but there have been a few fine days this month, and there seems a possibility that the sun may not desert us altogether, in which case a pleasant time is in store for all. We wish our readers a Merry Christmas and the best of good luck during the coming year.

WHIP OR SPUR.

A NUMBER of rather shrewd judges are of opinion that the use of the spur, except in certain exceptional cases, is totally unnecessary, and there is no doubt that a good deal can be said in favour of the argument. That there are times when it is absolutely necessary to make free use of the spur in a race it is not difficult to believe. Occasionally you drop across a galloper who will do nothing but what he is forced to do. In a case like this, there is no help for it; the whip, and the spurs, too, must be brought into play if you are to get the best results from the sluggard. But at the same time, it is scarcely any exaggeration to say that for every one horse that will stand a "gruelling" there are nine who act the better for not feeling either the steel or the whipcord at all. Indeed, so far as flat racing is concerned, the spur at least could, in the majority of cases, be profitably left at home altogether. Even in jumping events, although something can be said in their favour, on the authority of so fine a horseman as Arthur Nightingale, the rider is just as well without them, and he acts on the belief by invariably using dummies—spurs with no rowels. There are perhaps no finer horsemen in the world than the Cossacks, yet they rely entirely on the whip. It is very gratifying to lovers of the horse to find the unnecessary cruel jockeys are in a very great minority. Writing on this subject the "Sporting and Dramatic News" says that after the last Melbourne Cup the signs of punishment were remarkably few. There were no whip marks at all, and it was only in a couple of cases that slight spur scores were noticeable. And this, despite that the battle was a severe one throughout. The horses did their level best without being chopped to pieces, and, as we have said, it is very seldom that a horse is met with upon whom extreme measures are necessary. There is even a way of getting a "slug" along soimes without making him look as if he had an argument with a barbed wire fence. To be able to slash, bash with the whip is by no means the first and last of the art of riding. Boys learning to ride should have this lesson impressed upon them. Both the whip and the spurs are for use, not abuse, and it will be found that a good idea is to take these things away from youngsters who don't understand what they are rightly for. A little kiddy with a big whip might in his ignorance do a lot of unnecessary damage. He would be better employed looking after his horse's head.

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