

Sporting Topica.

(By "The Judge.")

Mr J. Marshall has resigned from the committee of the Auckland Racing Club.

The Porirua candidates, Ghoorka and Boris, came up by the Rarawa on Tuesday. Both are looking well.

Major George's cast-off, Seahorse II., ran third in the Grand Sefton Steeplechase, Liverpool.

Float will be absent from the Hawke's Bay Summer Meeting, having gone amiss.

R. J. Mason, Mr Stead's private trainer, has been ailing since his arrival in Auckland, the result of a shock received by colliding with a horse in the dark.

The Yaldhurst team, consisting of Savoury, Nightfall, Delaware, Sungod, and Nocturniform, arrived in Auckland by the Victoria on Sunday morning.

Robt. Gooseman, the well-known Napier trainer, has been on the sick list for some time past, but is now making a good recovery.

Catherine Gordon, Beau Seaton, Czarevna, and Redolence are due at Ellerslie to-day. F. Holmes is in charge.

Sir George Clifford's team at Palmerston North will consist of Cannie Chiel, Chryseis, and To-morrow.

Several trotters have arrived from New South Wales and are quartered at the Esplanade Hotel stables. They will be seen out at the A.R.C. Summer Meeting.

On Tuesday morning Loch Lomond and Phos had a bout over the Steeplechase jumps at Ellerslie. The latter had the better of the go, but with a little more schooling Loch Lomond promises to make a fair horse over country.

L. H. Hewitt rode five winners and one second out of six tries at the Christchurch Meeting, a record which has only once been beaten. He is in great form just now.

Hewitt's five wins and one second at Christchurch last week has only once been beaten in the colony, this being when J. Farrell rode six consecutive winners at the Helensville Meeting.

The Summer Meeting of the Thames Jockey Club opens on Monday. The following should run well in their respective engagements:—Goldfields Cup: Putty, Zuleika, Soulfish. Stewards' Handicap: Anchorite, Soulfish, Geologist. Steeplechase: Dingo, Wairaka. Hauraki Handicap: Gweniad, Alba Rose, Desdemona.

Our Ellerslie correspondent sends the following selections for next Monday's events at Ellerslie:—Trial Handicap: Waikato, Waipuna, Numa. Grafton Hurdles: Up-to-Date, Princess of Thule, Ranala. Nursery Handicap: Boomerang, Car Rosa, Apology. Pony Cup: Orange and Blue, Fashionable, Sally Horner. Christmas Handicap: Gladstone, Delania, Waikato. Cup: Romeo, Ghoorka, Starshoot; Idas for surprise. Railway Handicap: Savoury, Marshal Sout, Kremlin.

W. Bainbridge, the trainer of Santoi and other winners in England, writes me that he is coming out in the White Star liner Ionic to settle in the colony, and hopes to be in Auckland at the beginning of January. He can go to the scale at 8st 4lb, and in addition to riding on the flat he has ridden winners over country for Major Gordon and Major J. D. Edwards. Bainbridge hopes to get a fair share of riding to do, and, as there seems plenty of scope for a good man, should not want for mounts.

Mr Watt's quartette, Melodeon, Starshoot, King Billy, and Boomerang, arrived by the Victoria on Sunday. Starshoot proved very lively on being landed, lashing out in all directions. All four having been doing satisfactory work since their arrival.

The Auckland Racing Club has received eighty-two nominations for the G.N. Guineas of 1906, ninety-three for the G.N. Derby of 1906-7, fifty-nine for the G.N. Oaks, 1907; one hundred and two for the G.N. Champagne Stakes, 1906; and one hundred and four for the Twelfth Royal Stakes.

Ghoorka has been supported for a lot of money during the last few days. Truly the Cup seems a very open race.

Mr G. G. Stead and Mr Murray Hobbs are due the A.R.C. Meeting and the yearling sales.

The Southern hurdler Ranana is now at Ellerslie, and the queerly-shaped bay gelding has been giving satisfactory exhibitions over the small sticks.

The Drury Racing Club's Meeting will take place on December 30. Some very fair performers are engaged, and the fixture looks like proving a success.

Mr H. T. Gorrie has been elected president of the Auckland Racing Club, Mr L. D. Nathan having resigned that post.

The late Mr George Adams died a rich man. Probate has been granted in the estate, the value of which amounted to some £130,000 personally and £700,000 realty.

The famous mare Sceptre, who has now been retired to the stud to be mated with Gallinule, won during her turf career the sum of £38,783 in stake money.

The Westralian sportsman, Mr L. H. Darlot, is on a visit to Auckland and will assist at the A.R.C. Meeting.

Monday next will be the thirty-first occasion on which the Auckland Cup has been competed for. Mr F. W. Delamin's Templeton won the first in 1874.

A recent Indian exchange states that there are no less than 176 Australian horses and ponies in training for the Calcutta Christmas meetings.

Among the visiting trotters for the Auckland Trotting Club's Summer Meeting are Young McKinney from Christchurch, Logan, Specialist, and Specialist from Dunedin, and Cornwall, Melba, and Legbreak from New South Wales.

The Auckland Trotting Club's privileges for the approaching meeting were submitted to auction on Friday, the prices obtained being:—Booths, Mr J. Molloy, £185; gates, Mr Adams, £261; cards, Messrs A. Cleave and Co., £127; refreshment stall, £16.

The Auckland Trotting Club's Summer Meeting will be commenced on Tuesday next and should prove a great success. The local cracks will be opposed by trotters from New South Wales, Christchurch, and Dunedin, so that the sport should be of a first-class character. A number of general improvements have been effected since the last meeting, and the totalisator house will now be found much more convenient than before. The first race is timed to be started at half-past twelve o'clock.

During the past week the betting on the Cup brightened up. The last two introduced into the market were Starshoot, who was backed down to 5 to 1, and then came Ghoorka, who was well supported from 8 to 1 down to 5 to 1. The same two were coupled with Savoury at 100 to 5 and 100 to 6. Kremlin was made the medium for speculation coupled with Romeo, Mahutonga, Scotty, Ghoorka, and Starshoot at 100 to 2. Melodeon has caused in the betting since the introduction of his stable mate, Starshoot.

On Saturday a meeting of the committee of the South Auckland Racing Club was held at the Hamilton Hotel. It was decided to ask the following to act as officers of the club:—President, Mr W. H. Herries, M.H.R.; vice-president, Mr F. W. Lang, M.H.R.; stewards, Messrs K. S. Brookfield, I. Coates, W. I. Conradi, E. B. Cox, J. Dalgliesh, J. Gordon, W. H. Knock, and A. J. Storey; judge, Mr W. H. Herries, M.H.R.; starter, Mr J. Dalgliesh; handicapper, Mr J. Chadwick; clerk of scales, Mr S. L. Bygrave; clerk of course, Mr R. Casey; treasurer, Mr J. Dalgliesh; auditor, Mr J. S. Edgecombe; totalisator steward, Mr W. I. Conradi. Mr R. J. Gwynne was re-elected to the position of secretary. Messrs A. J. Storey, J. Dalgliesh, and H. E. Tristram were appointed to draw up the programme and submit it to the Auckland Racing Club for approval. It was decided to increase the amount of stakes given by the club to £300, an increase of £25 upon the money given last year.

The club intends changing the name of the South Auckland Racing Club to that of the Hamilton Racing Club. The name was a somewhat confusing one, and the suggested alteration is a good one.

The old standing dish, the Cup and Steeplechase, seems now a thing of the past, the field being cramp in the Steeplechase the prices are cramp in comparison to the Cup and Railway.

Lovelink and Simple both proved too many for their diminutive pilots and took charge while doing a trial on Saturday morning, with the result that the boy on Simple Simon came a nasty cropper when turning into the straight, but luckily was not much hurt.

Ropa, the Avondale Guineas winner, proved a costly purchase to Mr Ross, of Wellington. Ropa has been well backed on several occasions by his connections, but so far has not returned any of his purchase money.

It is not unlikely that when the numbers go up for the Auckland Cup that of Gladstone may be missing, his track work gives but little hope of success.

Mr Brown of Newcastle, the owner of Sir Foote and Chantress, has come over to attend the A.R.C. Meeting.

Acceptances for all trotting events at the Auckland Trotting Club's Summer Meeting close on Friday, 23rd inst., at 9 p.m.

The Summer Meeting of the Otahuhu Trotting Club is to take place on February 18, 22, and 25.

Up-to-date is a very strong fancy for the Grafton Hurdle Race, to be run on Monday.

W. W. Forbes brought over the trotters Cornway, Melba, and Legbreak from Sydney by the Zealandia, which arrived on Sunday afternoon.

There will be no lack of racing throughout the colony during Christmas week, as twenty-one different clubs hold meetings between December 26 and January 3.

At Chicago (U.S.A.), in October last, Ivan the Terrible equalled the performance of Dick Welles at Washington Park in June last year, by covering six furlongs in 1min 11 4-5sec. An American record for the distance.

If the administration of Turf affairs in New Zealand is really of an advanced order, there certainly seems to be a good deal of friction in the way of obtaining finality when it comes to settling points of racing law which crop up (says the "Referee"). The appeal boards and the judges chosen are often at variance in their interpretation of matters which arise, and it would probably be an improvement if a fixed tribunal were appointed to give decisions which are to be taken as precedents. The Petrovna case has created a deal of dissatisfaction, as might have been expected, and legal opinions as to the interpretation of certain rules of racing are being flourished to confound the judges. It looks as if the splitting of straws was a favourite diversion with some of the chosen authorities who have upset the rulings of local stewards, and perhaps less display of legal talent and more common-sense interpretation of racing rules would work out with more general satisfaction to the racing interests of the island colony.

The annual race meeting of the Foverty Bay Turf Club will take place on February 16 and 17. A very good programme of sixteen events has been drawn up, and this will be found in our advertising columns. On the opening day the best endowed events are the Turanga Stakes, of 110 sovs, 1 1/2 miles, and the Flying Handicap, of 60 sovs, six furlongs. On the second day most interest will attach to the Sunderland Stakes, of 110 sovs, one mile, the Stewards Handicap, of 50 sovs, seven furlongs, the Second Hurdles, of 50 sovs, 1 1/2 miles, and the Publicans' Purse Handicap, of 50 sovs, five furlongs. The meeting is a popular one, and is well worthy the attention of owners. Entries close on January 14, at 9.30, with Mr E. L. Maude, the secretary, while for events in which there is no acceptance, entries will be taken up to February 4.

At a meeting of the A.R.C. Committee last Monday, the following licenses were granted:—Trainers: L. Quintall, A. R. Kruck, A. H. Blasford. Jockeys: L. Jelling, W. Mooney, J. J. Stannaway, A. A. McKenzie, G. Batensby, W. Moberley, G. A. New, and F. G. Hunt. The programme of the Alexandra Racing Club, 26th December, and the Te Aroha Hack Racing Club, 30th January, were passed.

Wellcast broke down on Tuesday morning, and will not be seen out at the A.R.C. Meeting.

It was rumoured in town that Hewitt was too slow the mount on Ghoorka, but it was too s as though the crack horseman will be a spectator at the race, for C. Jenkins is fairly certain to be in the saddle on the Forirua horse.

The Indian Viceroy's Cup will be run on the 27th inst., and it is most likely will again fall to an Australian-bred horse. Last year Great Scot won it, and he is said to have excellent prospects of repeating his success.

The progeny of the defunct Sir Modred still keep his memory green in America. At Chicago in October, the two-year-old colt St. Brillar, who claims the son of Traducer as sire, won a six furlong race, and was only beaten by a head in a mile handicap in which he was giving weight to most of his opponents.

Fresto II. easily beat Fife in their £1000 match at Paris last month, and to show that there was no fluke about the result of the Prix du Conseil Municipal, the former's owner wants to run him against Pretty Polly for £4000 aside, on the same terms as they met in that race—namely, the colt to carry 8st 5lb, and the filly 9st 11lb. If Pretty Polly's owner honestly thinks his filly unlucky to be downed by Presto II., he should jump at the chance of a match.

The six-year-old horse Royal Rouge, who won a selling hurdle race at Hurst Park (England) recently, and was then bought in for 75gs, was so highly thought of early in his career that when offered at auction at Newmarket as a two-year-old, a genuine offer of 7000gs was refused. However, he proved a failure, and has done nothing beyond accounting for three or four small jumping races.

A London writer expresses an opinion that there is too much inclination to "coddle" English racehorses nowadays. It is doubtless a very pleasant sight, he says, to see Pretty Polly and her inseparable companion, the now famous cob, rubbing noses together, which presumably is the equine method of kissing, whilst the former is being saddled for a race. Supposing, however, that every horse in a paddock was accompanied by a companion of some sort, matters would be awkward indeed, especially where the field was large and the paddock small. Moreover, it is questionable if this companionship has not been carried to far too great lengths in the case of Pretty Polly, who exhibits more and more disinclination to leave her inseparable companion, and, on the occasion of her last race, it was noted that Maher had considerable difficulty in getting her to go to the post.

THE PROGRAMME FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

There will be plenty to interest sportsmen in Auckland during the holidays. The programme is as follows:—

- December 25, Sunday—Northern S.S. Co's Excursion to New Plymouth.
- December 26, Monday—The Auckland Racing Club's Summer Meeting (Cup Day). The Thames J.C. Summer Meeting, Northern Wairoa R.C. Summer Meeting, Northern S.S. Co's Excursion to Waiheke, Kawau, Waiwera, etc., Union S.S. Co's Excursion to New Plymouth.
- December 27, Tuesday—The Auckland Trotting Club's Summer Meeting, the Thames J.C. Summer Meeting, Northern Wairoa R.C. Summer Meeting, Northern S.S. Co's Excursion to New Plymouth.
- December 28, Wednesday—Union S.S. Co's Excursion to New Plymouth.
- December 29, Thursday—The Auckland Racing Club's Summer Meeting (Summer Cup Day), Northern Co's Excursion to New Plymouth, and Tauranga Regatta.
- December 30, Friday—Wellington Park Stud Company's Sale of Yearlings, Drury Racing Club's Meeting, Union S.S. Co's Excursion to New Plymouth.
- December 31, Saturday—Auckland Trotting Club's Meeting (second day).
- January 2, Monday—Auckland Racing Club's Meeting (Derby Day), Kamo Racing Club's Meeting, Northern S.S. Co's Excursion.
- January 3, Tuesday—Auckland Racing Club's Meeting (Royal Cambria).
- January 4, Wednesday—Cambera Park Stud Company's Dispersal Sale of Brood Mares, Foals, etc., the Glenora Park Yearlings Sale, and the Glenora Park Yearlings Sale.
- January 7, Saturday—Auckland Trotting Club's Summer Meeting (Third Day). The Ferry Company will run numerous excursions on all the holidays.