

the much-lauded animal's winning career. Achilles was given 10st for last N.Z. Cup, and 9st 12lb for Wellington Cup, notwithstanding that his only win over a distance was the A.R.C. Century Stakes, 1½ miles. He then carried 9st 2lb, and ran the distance in 2min 15sec. Scotty then only considered a very moderate animal) with 8st 11lb was second, and Spalpeen, the hurdle horse, 8st 6lb, was third.

Mr Stead's mare, Cruciform, also achieved a great reputation owing to her successes in w.f.a. events, but her only handicap victory of note was her win at the Wellington Spring Meeting, 1903, when she carried 9st 7lb, and defeated Halberdier, 9st 5lb, in the Wellington Handicap, 1½ miles. It would appear that a horse has only to win a w.f.a. race or two to be anchored with weight for the rest of his racing career. Weight-adjusters should realise that even though a horse wins a w.f.a. race, it should still be given a chance in handicap events. My reading of the word handicap is that the inferior horses engaged in a handicap race should be lightly enough weighted to enable them to make some kind of showing with the best horses. I consider that I am right in assuming that racing authorities consider the stakes should be appropriated by the owners of the best horses, and not entirely by those of a medium class. Horse-racing is ostensibly conducted for the purpose of improving the breed of horses, but by encouraging the medium class, racing clubs cannot be said to be encouraging the best class of thoroughbreds.

**OTAGO.**

Dunedin, February 7.

The writer made the journey to the Maniototo Meeting which was held last week, but although the meeting was a financial success, it could not be regarded as such from a sporting point of view. The Naseby Cup was captured by the Stepniak mare Visionary, and on the second day the principal event went to Tugela.

Amongst the winners at the Launceston Cup Meeting was a horse called Eminent, a son of Eminence and of the N.Z. bred mare Cuirassina, who was taken to Australia from Southland a number of years ago, and was got by Cuirassier out of the Traducer mare Rosarina.

The South Canterbury J.C. will distribute 600 sovs in prize money at its Autumn Meeting, which is set down to take place in April 12 and 13.

The Pilgrim's Progress—Tsaritsa foal has been named Apollyon.

The S.C.J.C. will include a distance race on its Autumn programme.

Mr C. A. Jefferson has been re-appointed starter to the S.C.J.C.

Mr A. J. Gibbs has been appointed handicapper to the Riverton Racing Club.

The yearling brother to Petrovna has been named Balaclava.

Ostiak's two-year-old sister has been named Monkey Puzzle.

J. McCombe has accepted a retainer from Mr St. John Buckley for second call on his services during the remainder of the season. McCombe will act as premier horseman for the Hon. G. McLean's stable.

The Maniototo J.C. put through £3288 at this year's annual meeting. This was an increase of £550 over last year's total.

Lolah started a couple of times at Naseby, but did not run up to expectations in either of her races. She looked dry in the coat and a trifle stale, and would probably be benefitted by a spell.

Red Gauntlet has been attacked by influenza, which was probably contracted at the Wellington Meeting, and his stable companion, Ouidaform, is also causing his trainer some anxiety, and may not be able to carry silk at the Dunedin Cup Meeting.

The Tabuna Park Trotting Club has received excellent nominations for its Autumn Meeting, and as class is represented as well as quantity, there is every prospect of the club experiencing a successful meeting.

An owner, who tasted the fruits of victory on the first day of the Naseby Meeting, subsequently had the pleasure killed by the pain resulting from being "touched" for the thick end of a century whilst under the influence of morphine.

Stepniak was responsible for three winners on the first day of the Naseby Meeting.

Amongst the contestants at the Naseby Meeting was a six-year-old chestnut gelding, by Cajolery out of Aileen, the dam of Kremlin and Muscovite. He is called Caviola, and shows a fair amount of quality, but was rather backward in condition. The gelding has been a winner at some of the small meetings, and ran as well as his appearance suggested.

E. McKewen, who is the recognised Archer amongst our Southern trotting riders, scored in three races out of four at Naseby. McKewen is the best rider of the trotter that has come to

the front in recent years, and it is remarkable how he can get decent gaits out of the horses, which in other hands show a pace more fitted for the road than the track.

Old Marema, the hero of a hundred battles, was amongst the starters at Naseby, and although he was not in anything like racing condition, he displayed a glimpse of his well-known pace, but naturally could not last a race out. Marema was foaled in 1891, and was a good winner in his day. One of the most remarkable races the Lady Emma gelding won was the Gore Cup of 1896, in which he defeated his brother, Dilemma, by a head, whilst his half-sister, Emmiline, was close up third.

De La Rey was made a very strong order for the Naseby Cup, but Visionary, who was in receipt of 31lb, from the son of Seaton Delaval, managed to beat him with a bit in hand by two lengths. De La Rey did not arrive at Naseby until late the previous evening, owing to the refusal of the railway authorities to take him and King's Guest by the morning train which conveys the remainder of the visiting horses to the meeting. The son of Seaton Delaval blew a bit after his race, but the galloping he received should do him good.

King's Guest won his race in good style, and is evidently at home on firm ground, as he galloped with more dash than he displayed on the soft going he had under him at Invercargill and Gore. Both horses should give a good account of themselves at the C.J.C. Midsummer Meeting.

Paparoa, who won a double on the first day of the Naseby Meeting, is rather a good cut of a gelding, but inclined to be stilly in front, a failing which is characteristic of the St. Leger stock. He had not much to beat, but he smashed them from the rise of the barrier, and should win again when the company is not too select. Paparoa is

Clanburn and King Stork together were treated to similar exercise.

Ability galloped six furlongs in 1min 22sec, the first two furlongs being covered in 28sec, a very fair performance.

Golden Vein took 1min 37 1-5sec to negotiate seven furlongs, but he moved lazily.

Saranges brushed over the last half-mile of a circuit at half-speed in 53sec, while Natalie and Sonaroff dashed over six furlongs up the back, the last half-mile occupying 57 3-5sec.

Stronghold spurted four furlongs, while Slow Tom did his usual gallop over seven furlongs.

Sea Lion and Tirole were associated in a sound gallop over a mile and a-quarter; the latter always had the better of his companion, but they were allowed to finish together, Tirole being under a strong gull. The times for the various stages of the gallop were as follows:—First three furlongs, 41sec; first six furlongs, 1min 25sec; full distance in 2min 12 3-5sec.

Quickfire, with an advantage in weights, could easily have defeated Czarevna over six furlongs, which was run in 1min 24 1-5sec.

Vardo galloped six furlongs up the back, the last half-mile of which was run in 55 4-5sec.

Zealous traversed seven furlongs, while Replete negotiated a circuit at three-quarter speed.

Pensive easily defeated Cathron over six furlongs up the back in 1min 22sec.

Lee-Enfield was better than Buccleuch at a similar distance, which occupied 1min 24 4-5sec.

Catherine Gordon, after covering two circuits, was joined by Hilarity, and the pair raced home over the last half-mile, the latter finishing several lengths in front, in 51 4-5sec, a smart performance.



A WELL-BUNCHED FIELD.

by Papakura, the son of St. Leger and the Musket mare Muskerina, and his dam, Toroa, was got by Regel out of Mystery, by Javelin from Fay Duchess, by Totara.

On most racecourses the totalisator is worked silently, but at Maniototo, James barangues the crowd, and quotes the odds like a fielder; he also gets his patrons in good humour by offering to lend fabulous sums to all and sundry should there be a lull in the business. The fielders were not so prominent as usual at the gathering, but also appeared to be pulling through a fair amount of business.

**TRAINING NOTES.**

**RICCARTON.**

**TUESDAY.**

All the horses claiming engagements at the meeting this week were out this morning when the outside of grass trial track was opened. Heavy rain fell yesterday, but the going was very fair, and if the weather keeps fine the tracks should be in excellent order.

On Thurshay Cannie Chiel and Signalman were sent for a mile and a-quarter, a gallop which they accomplished in 2min 20sec. The former, who was carrying a good deal more weight, had the better of his companion.

Tessera alone brushed over five furlongs up the back, while Chryseis was given a similar task.

Ordnance galloped six furlongs.

Lady Wayward brushed over half a mile up the back.

Stepdancer alone galloped one mile and a-quarter in 2min 19sec, the first six furlongs occupying 1min 23 1-5sec.

Reduction dashed over half a mile in 53sec.

Master Alix galloped six furlongs in 1min 21sec.

After breakfast, Inglenook spurted half a mile up the back in 52 1-5sec.

Secret Society was doing his best at the end of six furlongs, run in 1min 25sec.

Nor'-wester and Melinda together took 1min 18½sec to cover five furlongs up the back, while Glenowlet defeated Gay Spark over a similar distance, run in 1min 7 3-5sec.

Guard of Honour easily defeated Taxpayer over seven furlongs, which took 1min 36 1-5sec.

Bonnie Brae proved too good for Clanchatan over half a mile up the back, run in 53 1-5sec.

Makaroff finished in front of Grand Poplar over a similar distance, covered in 52 3-5sec.

Merrymaker was better than Prince Loris over a mile run in 1min 52sec.

Antigone galloped a mile easily in 1min 54 1-5sec.

Kalypso defeated Euclid over half a mile in 52 1-5sec.

Cairn spurted four furlongs in 53 2-5sec, from a standing start.

Zinzari, with welter weight up, galloped a mile in 1min 53sec, from a walking start.

There was little to choose between Rongo and Web Planet at the end of seven furlongs, run in 1min 38sec.

Manjess, Cerise and Blue, Pandel and Great Gun separately did useful work.

Delarey and King's Guest, who arrived yesterday, were out and did steady pacing.

**Sport in Australia**

(By "Atlas.")

Sydney, February 1.

We have just experienced another Anniversary Day, when Australians observe high holiday, notwithstanding the fact that they have barely had time to recover from the effects of the frivolities and festivities of Christmas and New Year. No holiday would be complete without race meetings, and we have had them everywhere. The Sydney attraction was provided by the Sydney Turf Club, which is a sort of offshoot of the Australian Jockey Club, and holds its gatherings on the same convincing ground at Randwick. The meeting was opened on Saturday in favourable weather. The leading event on the first day was the Challenge Stakes, six furlongs, eleven fairly good sprinters being engaged, and as there was a Tattersall's sweep dependent on the result they were all on the job. Mohair, 7st 12lb, was favourite at 4 to 1, with Fashoda, 7st 12lb, second in demand at 6 to 1. The race was run at a sound pace all the way, and Fashoda in the end asserted supremacy, beating the unlucky Deemater, 8st 6lb, by a length and a-half, with Poura, 7st 2lb, close up third; time, 1min 14½sec. The winner is a six-year-old mare by Niagara out of Repentance. The only other event worth noting in connection with the first day's racing was the Club Handicap, as the winner Lordano, 6st 10lb, and the second horse, Ullin's Daughter, were destined to play a leading part in the Anniversary Handicap on the second day.

It rained between Saturday night and Monday, but the going was sound for

the second day of the gathering. One short of a dozen faced the starter for the Anniversary Handicap. Although Cato had been favourite since the weights came out he was supplanted in the betting before the start, the final prices being 3 to 1 Tatterdemalion, 7 to 2 Cato, 4 to 1 Metal Lace, 5 to 1 each Lord Ullin's Daughter and Panama, from 10 to 20 to 1 others. Panama made most of the running and led to the half-distance, where Lord Ullin's Daughter made her effort and won by a length and a-half, Panama carried 6st 13lb, and got over the mile and a-half in 2min 39½sec. She is by Lochiel out of the imported mare Farthingale. Although the favourites did not win in the two leading events of the meeting the bookmakers did no good, as solidly backed horses did the trick for their supporters in most of the other races.

In Melbourne on Saturday the Aspendale Park Handicap, one mile and a-quarter, was won by Cluster, by Off Colour—Genevra, who carried 7st 11lb to victory in 2min 13sec, Namoi, 7st 7lb, second.

The Newcastle Jockey Club celebrated Anniversary Day with a successful meeting. There were eight starters in the Anniversary Handicap, one mile, and the placed horses were Carnival, 8st 8lb, by Cobbit—Marplot 1, Phil May, 7st 7lb, 2, Byron, 7st 12lb 3.

S. Doyle, the rider of Lynhill at the Bowral Picnic Races, on Monday, was seriously injured through his horse falling.

Chairman, 7st 2lb, by Archie—Burindella, won the January Handicap, one mile and a-quarter, at the Queensland Turf Club's Meeting, on Monday, in the smart time of 2min 10sec.