

at it, and the next time he again went at it in a half-hearted manner and came down.

Pipi is one of the best fencers ever seen in the colony, but his memory can evidently bring this down at a jump which in the ordinary course of events would be negotiated without an effort.

The two-year-old Stepniak—Cobweb gelding Stepchild, who has been in J. Rutledge's stable since he was a yearling, was shipped last week to Adelaide to his owner, Mr. J. Tennant.

Stepchild has been a failure as a race-horse, but he has a bit of pace, and would probably do better with more age.

If he should fail to train on in his new home he will be relegated to utility work on the owner's station, where Evening Wonder is at present following the sheep, etc.

The Elderslie stud matron Madder has been a good producer of winning stock, as Madrigal, Rose Madder, and Rubia are her three first foals.

Her yearling, which was put up at the last annual sale of the stud stock, made 350 guineas, and was purchased by Mr. G. Hunter, the well-known Southern sportsman.

Mr. T. Kent passed through Dunedin last week on a visit to Rotorua. His companion de voyage is Mr. J. Loughlin, the well-known metallician. It is quite possible Mr. Kent may pick up a horse or two should he take a fancy to something he meets on his travels.

Two Wingatui colts in Tartar (Stepniak—Miss Betty) and Mondjik (Stepniak—Vaultress) have been nominated for the Wellington St. Leger.

Mr. Jas. Jeffs has sold Ostiak to a Southern buyer.

Very little interest was taken here in the V.R.C. National Hurdles, and York was a turn up for most of his followers.

TARANAKI.

July 4.

A meeting of the Taranaki Metropolitan Committee was held on Friday when Colonel Ellis, in the absence of Mr. J. Paul, presided. In reference to a letter from the Racing Conference, it was decided to recommend the cancellation of the licenses of the following registered clubs:—Egmont Hunt Club, Eltham Hack Racing Club, Okaiawa Racing Club, Stratford Mounted Rifles, Urenui Hack Racing Club, they not having held a meeting during the past 12 months. The secretary of the conference inquired about certain assumed names, and the secretary of the club informed the committee that he had sent the information. The trustees of the accident fund granted C. Stewart £2 18s 6d in connection with the injuries he received while riding Toledo at the Egmont Winter Meeting. The Egmont Club forwarded a claim from W. Frabery, who was injured while schooling Tambowie on the Egmont course, and this had been forwarded to the trustees. The Hawke's Bay Club wrote asking if the committee had any objection to a jockey's license being granted to Henry Jury. The committee decided they could not recommend the club to issue such license. The Masterton Club wrote complaining that a trainer in the Hawera district had left Masterton without paying certain small accounts, including one to a widow. The secretary stated he had sent a copy of the letter to the trainer with a request to attend to the matter. The Robertson Totalisator Syndicate, Christchurch, wrote asking the club to give their double-event machine a trial. The matter was held in abeyance for the present. Several accounts were passed, including one for royalty on Gray's starting machine.

Mr. J. Paul, president of the Taranaki Club and chairman of the committee, returns this week from Marlborough, where he has been spending a couple of weeks.

Mr. W. Elliot, of Waitara, is about again after his accident. He has six charges in his stable, including Lady Lancelot, rising 3 years, by Sir Lancelot from Auray; and Lady Mere, rising three, by Westmere from Fanny Fisher, and therefore half-sister to Maniopoto.

All sorts of wild statements are being circulated about the backing of Maniopoto. I would advise backers to stand off till they see how he shapes at the A.J.C. Spring Meeting, for that is the Soult horse's mission, all going well.

A private wire was received here the other day stating that P. Johnson, on behalf of his brother, had sold Lurcher at Hastings for £200.

Mr. F. Stohr is now about again, but he looks shaken up after his severe illness. Inglewood will be sent to Stratford, where he will be spelled till the spring.

I understand that Heroism is showing aptitude for the jumping game.

P. Johnson returned from Hawke's Bay on Saturday night. He states that Lurcher was sold to Mr. F. Armstrong.

a well-known landowner in the Wairarapa. Mr. Armstrong is visiting England shortly, and will take the St. Hippo gelding with him for a hunter.

Johnson has been engaged to ride Mr. P. Donnelly's horses in jumping events at Wellington and Riccarton.

WANGANUI.

WANGANUI, July 4.

The Fordell-trained Handsome Rose followed up his recent victories at Hawke's Bay by annexing the big stick event on the opening day of the Napier Park meeting. The son of Handsome Jack was heavily backed here for the event, and the layers of odds got a bad time of it.

Mr. H. Austen, of Foxton, had the misfortune to lose his Musketry—Fatigue colt Purdey, who died recently of inflammation.

Evening, who won the steeplechase here in such splendid style, has now developed a leg, and in all probability will not sport silk again for some considerable time. This is very bad luck for Mr. Armstrong, owner of the son of Wonderland—Vesper.

Mr. J. Cotter, of the Wairarapa, has presented the local Jockey Club with two fine stags' heads—royals—for the new stewards' stand, which is shortly to be erected. The donator was associated with racing here some thirty odd years ago, and always spends a very enjoyable holiday when visiting the town now.

St. Lyra, Fontenoy and Shrapnel have been nominated for the Winter Cup, to be decided at the Canterbury Jockey Club's winter fixture, while Handsome Rose, Bounce, Kohatu, Valima, and the Sandon-trained Daredevil are the only entrants from this vicinity for the jumping events.

The Tod Sloan hurdle rider, C. O'Neill, added a couple more wins to his long list at the Napier Park meeting last week, when he steered Wild Cat and Jack o' Lantern to victory on the second day. The victory of the latter is said to be attributable mainly to the splendid horsemanship displayed by O'Neill.

The Forster gelding Valkyrie has been nicely treated in the hurdles at Wellington with 9st 13lb, and should he be taken down will prove hard to beat, as he is in capital nick at present.

The Marton Racing Club, who usually usher in the spring racing season, intend to include two open events on their next programme, called the Crofton Handicap of 100sovs, six furlongs, and the Marton Handicap of 110sovs, one mile. The total increase in stakes will be about 100sovs.

The St. Hippo gelding Lurcher still continues to run into a place in his essays over crosscountry courses, and no doubt he will before long carry his colours in the van.

Besides being engaged to ride Slow Tom at the Christchurch meeting, Clarence O'Neill has, I understand, been retained to ride The Mohican.

Frank Lind returned from Napier on Friday, where he has been riding Mr. Lowry's leppers Creusot and Comfort. It was particularly hard luck for the owner and rider of Comfort that the horseman should have missed the brush fence in the Park Steeple, which necessitated the race being taken away from Mr. Lowry's representative. Lind says the starter explained before the race that the contestants were to miss the last hedge but one, and he forgot exactly which one when coming to the finish and missed the last jump. Frank, however, made amends on the concluding day by riding the same steed to victory in the Hurdle Race. Lind returns early this week to continue schooling Creusot and Comfort in view of their Wellington and National engagements.

Harry Jackson was again favoured by a slice of good luck at Napier Park, where the aristocratic-bred Fontenoy annexed two races somewhat easily. The big son of Haut Brion is just getting into form, and there are plenty of his admirers who fancy he will take a power of beating if started in the Winter Cup.

Jackson's other pair, St. Lyra and Benmore, failed to reproduce their form of the previous week, but as this is not an unusual occurrence with this pair, it would not be quite unexpected by trainer and owner alike.

W. Price, the well-known Fordell lightweight, who has made a name for himself on the flat is on a fair way to success as a hurdle rider. Price rode Handsome Rose in all his victories lately, and good judges who have seen him ride predict a splendid future before this lightweight crosscountry horseman.

According to a Greymouth paper, W. Mitchell, trainer of the Handsome Jack colt Roseal, had rather an anxious time of it during the recent flood. Mitchell's stables are situated near the racecourse, which was under water to a depth of nine feet, but he got his charge shifted to a vacated stable on a small hill opposite the course after some difficulty.

Mr. A. Walker, of Feilding, has been negotiating for the purchase or the lease of Explosion for stud duties, but I understand nothing definite has yet been arranged.

C. Jenkins, the popular Porirua horseman, has now brought his winning mounts for the season up to 83, which constitutes a record, and there is not the slightest doubt but that he will score a few more wins before the season closes.

In allotting the Soult colt Maniopoto 8st 4lb in the Epsom Handicap of one mile, and 8st in the mile and a-half event, the Metropolitan Handicap, the handicapper for the A.J.C. spring meeting cannot be said to have been unduly harsh on the son of Lady Fisher. Neither has he erred on the side of leniency. However, should Maniopoto be sent across he should be quite capable of acquitting himself in a most creditable manner in either or both of the above races. Mr. H. Good, one of the horse's owners, has supported him for the Melbourne Cup to win £5000. I understand in taking this sum about Maniopoto Mr. Good was tempted to do by the price offered, the amount being secured for the outlay of £100.

WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON, July 4.

Matters appertaining to racing will be very much in evidence in Wellington shortly, as the delegates appointed by trotting clubs meet for their annual conference on the 10th, while the Wellington R.C. Winter Meeting and the annual New Zealand Racing Conference will take place later in the week, consequently our city should be surfeited with folks interested in sporting matters.

The business which will come before the Racing Conference, including, as it does, the adoption of a set of reconstructed racing rules, will render it one of the most important conferences yet held. The Premier's pointed references to the abuses attendant on racing and various other questions that have recently been raised by those who have the interest of pure sport at heart, may be expected to occupy the attention of the New Zealand Turf Parliament during their annual session.

The question of the allocation of dates is one that is sure to give rise to much discussion. Hitherto many clubs have, after mature consideration, decided upon certain dates as most suitable for their districts; their applications have in many instances been lightly waived aside and an intimation sent them that they must choose some other date that will meet with the approval of the chairman of the Conference. This usually leads to disaster, and it goes without saying that local officials are in the best position to know the date most suitable for their meetings.

From inquiries made I learn that a large number of loose boxes have been bespoken by visiting trainers, and the W.R.C. should experience a capital meeting. At the time of writing the weather has taken up, and there is every prospect of the training tracks and course proper being in good order while the visiting horses are here.

The Porirua representatives are reported as all in good nick, and should they fail to score during the meeting it will not be for lack of condition.

The Hutt-trained horses have been exercised whenever possible on the sand; this, with plenty of trotting on the roads, will render them fairly fit to battle against the redoubtable visitors that may be expected.

The Napier Park betting operations ended largely in favour of backers. On the strength of advice wired from the course punters were most consistent in selecting winners. In a number of cases the money simply poured into the starting-price layers, and on the concluding day of the meeting a lot of money was wired from here back to the racecourse. This probably accounts for Fontenoy only paying £1 7s in the Brooklands Hack Handicap. Comfort in the Poraiti Hurdle Handicap and Kohatu in the Farewell Steeplechase were sent through from the course as "morals," and I hear that some of the coin invested on them here found its way on to the totalisator.

The success of the Victorian Race-horse Owners' Association has evidently been observed by a number of New Zealand racing men, as I hear that it is con-

templated forming a like association in this colony. I am given to understand that a number of prominent owners have expressed their willingness to fall in with those who consider such an association would be in the interest of owners, and it seems only a matter of the latter being called together to enable them to be banded together for their common good. An ex-secretary of an influential racing club has been approached, and it is not unlikely that the matter may be discussed at a meeting of owners held about the time of the Wellington races.

AFTER THE RACES.

NAPIER PARK RACING CLUB'S WINTER MEETING.

The villainous climate that was on tap on Wednesday and yesterday had, as might be expected, a deteriorating effect upon the attendance. Still, it is a certainty that patrons were in a betting humour, for when the figures were made up at the conclusion of the outing, it was seen that the takings of the 1904 'chasing meeting had been exceeded by £337, the respective figures being—1904, £10,371; this season, £11,068.

Mr. Hyde was in the majority of cases successful in the dismissals, and the same may be said of A. Hood's essay in the Ladies' Bracelet, Mr. Hyde being engaged in that race piloting Baltic. Class was not largely in evidence at the gathering, and the paucity of good 'chasing horses was very noticeable. In the ranks of the flat competitors, Fontenoy, whom I had a good word for last week proved an easy first, as he won upon both occasions that he carried silk, and the easy style in which his triumphs were gained, marks him out as a horse who must be given a chance in the future in more classy contests than engaged his powers this week.

In Rose Madder Mr. Lowry has a more than useful bearer of his popular racing livery, for out of two goes Stepniak's daughter got a first and second award, and for a small-built mare like her to carry 11st 6lb and then run second to Assayer, to whom she was giving 13lb and three years, marks my argument in her favour in a forcible manner. Rose Madder is exceptionally quick at getting going, and I think there is no question had she been able to get out of the slips as rapidly on Thursday as she did on Wednesday, that Assayer would not have proved her conqueror. Still, I am inclined to think that winners and losers alike did not grudge the gentleman who goes a-racing under the non-de-course of Mr. A. Stuart the victory gained by the Gold Reef gelding, for his hearty genial style has made him numerous friends, both in and out of the racing world. A further proof that it is good business backing horses in form was shown by the effects of Wild Cat, who also scored once, and got second out of a couple of tries, and Comfort, who had the bad luck to get put out of court through his rider making a mistake as to the number of fences to be negotiated in the Napier Steeplechase. Mr. Lowry's gelding has put up a most consistent performance during the past fortnight, for he has started four times, won two steeplechases, run second in another, and got the first award in a hurdle race, and though opinions may be divided as to whether he would have won in the Napier Steeplechase if he had not missed the last crosscountry fence, I incline to the belief that he would have accounted for Nadador, my contention being based upon the fact that she had to put out a bit of effort to reach Comfort before the last big obstacle was reached, and this naturally took a deal of the vigour out of her. Nadador's record for the 'chasing period of this season so far reads in an attractive light, for she has started upon four occasions, twice at Wanganui, where she got second to Eurus in the Final Steeplechase, and missed her other attempt there; won at Hastings last week, and ran second to Comfort on Wednesday, but got the stake, which makes her a dual winner for two efforts. Sir William Russell's representative has justly earned the title as a consistent performer. It may be stated that she has started in twenty-five events over obstacles, has won upon six occasions, ran second the same number of times, and been placed third on five occasions. She had her first public go over the battens at the

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