

Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's spring meeting in 1903, when she ran second to Comfort in the Hack Handicap Hurdle Race. It was bad luck for Creusot that he tipped out in the Park Steeplechase, for it was only reasonable to suppose, with the poor pace that Jack o' Lantern and Lurcher were able to muster up at the finish of the go, that he would have downed both of them had he not come to grief. Still, I do not appraise Creusot in the same light as regards steeplechasing qualifications as the handicapper did this week when he made Kiaterere only a 6lb better horse than Torpedo's big son. How this reason was arrived at I fail to see, and I know perfectly well I am not the singular observant in the matter. Lurcher, who got a second in the Park Steeplechase, carried Mr. F. Armstrong's racing jacket in that event, St. Hippo's son having been purchased by that sport on Wednesday. Another of his team, Bill Bailey, who has lately been acquired by Mr. Armstrong, got a second place in the Ladies' Bracelet. Bill Bailey is booked to make the trip to Riccarton in August, and the well wishers of the Akitio sportsman, and their name is legion, will, I am sure, join with me in wishing all sorts of good luck to the county sport, who, like many more in these parts, follows up the game for the pleasure it affords him. Kiaterere and Numa may be expected in the future to show out in much superior style than characterises their displays on Wednesday.

Old Daredevil demonstrated that he is no back number, for, although he failed badly on the opening day, he put up a good performance on Thursday. His poor attempt in the Motu Hurdles may be set down to the fact that he got into one of the fences badly, and in the tangle his pilot had the misfortune to lose one of his stirrup irons.

Handsome Rose again showed that he is a good sort for the obstacle business, as his display in the Ahuriri Hurdles was faultless. He was engaged in the Poraiti Hurdles on Thursday, but the trainer notified the handicapper that he did not intend to put in an appearance with Handsome Jack's son in that event, and requested him not to handicap him for that race. Full Cry would have been hard to beat in the Winter Oats only that his rider (O'Brien) tried to get up on the inside three furlongs from home, and getting boxed in had to pull on the outside, and thus destroyed his winning opportunity.

Cavalry, who was made the medium of a big plunge on the part of his connections, once more failed to help them over the style. I am inclined to think he is a welscher, and I should say he would be a good sort to give away.

The last race of the meeting, the Newstead Handicap, proved the best of good things for Matakokiri, the top weight and favourite, as he came through the straight and won easily by three lengths from Onyx (who used to be known by the name of Sycophant), who was lengths ahead of Pantaloon, White Squall last. The winner paid £2 1s. and the runner-up £3 11s.

The winning horsemen at the meeting were headed by C. Jenkins with three wins, which equals his Hastings record. Clarence O'Neill, W. Price, and J. Hall each steered a couple of victors apiece, and J. O'Connell, F. Davis, C. Mitchell, R. McGregor, and Mr. J. Ormond one winner each.

TROTTING.

Mr C. F. Mark left for Wellington on Sunday to attend the Trotting Conference.

The annual balance-sheet of the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club shows that the business of the club for the year has been highly satisfactory. The total receipts reach £13,780, and the expenditure (including stakes, £9499) totals £15,081; included in this is the cost of improvements, £2000. The amount expended to date on buildings, etc., amounts to £11,152. The assets, after writing down buildings, etc., £3367, stand at £8000.

Matters are very quiet locally in trotting circles, and there is virtually nothing doing. The chestnut gelding Officer, by King Harold—Shetland mare, which Mr Martin Taylor recently took across from Auckland to Sydney, won the Pony Handicap at Epping on the 27th inst., and was afterwards sold to Mr J. J. Smith for £100. Officer started at 5 to 1 on and won by 40 yards.

Although Mr T. Playfair, the owner of Ribbonwood, issued a challenge some days ago to trot any horse in the Commonwealth, no reply has yet been received (says the "Town and Country Journal"). The champion is being given easy work to prepare him to meet anything that may come along.

Sport in Australia.

(By "Atlas.")

SYDNEY, June 28.

My first consideration this week must be the weights that were issued yesterday for the four big races of the spring. If I commence with the Epsom Handicap, which will be the first event decided, I cannot help remarking that in giving the New Zealand horse Machine Gun 9st 12lb, the handicapper has cruelly treated him. It is, however, an evidence that despite the free trade policy which our legislators boast of, that so far as racing stock is concerned, the handicapper is prepared to put on an almost prohibitive weight, and is therefore governed by a protective policy. The weight, no doubt, is flattering to New Zealand, but in a practical sense it is not likely to encourage New Zealand owners to nominate for the big events in New South Wales. Good horse as Machine Gun is, I feel that the protective policy of the handicapper has put him out of the running. It is early yet, and without going through the weights let me mention a few that I think have a chance—Fitz-Grafton, Sweet Nell, Marvel Loch, Lucknow, Emerald, Mack, Maniopoto (New Zealand), Fashoda, Binnia, and Grand Rapids.

In the Metropolitan I will select the following to be on my side:—Emir Fitz-Grafton, Tartan, Marvel Loch, Mahutonga, Golden Knight, Acrasia, Charles Stuart, Maniopoto, Mack, and Dividend.

The Caulfield Cup and Melbourne Cup weights are before me, but I do not feel disposed to make any definite selection at present. I promise, however, that I will watch events, and will later on send my selections. However, at the first glance I feel inclined to favour the chances of the following:—Caulfield Cup: Gladsome, Sweet Nell, Boabdil, and Murmur. Melbourne Cup: Emir, Dividend, Tartan, Munderah Grand Rapids, Mahutonga, Charles Stuart, Scotland, and Kamo.

Between this and the date of the A.J.C. and V.R.C. Meetings, I propose to send you a resume of the important work done on the Randwick and Flemington training tracks.

The meeting at Warwick Farm on Saturday was of little interest to outside readers. The principal event was the Warwick Farm Handicap, which only induced a field of six to compete. Punters were all astray, as they made Street Arab, who had won the week before at Moorefield, a favourite, but the arrant rogue on this occasion rewarded his followers by running last. Two years ago he won the Sydney Cup. Until last Saturday week he was never again seen near the front, but the style in which he smothered his field at Moorefield led us to expect better things in future. However, after last Saturday's performances, we know that he is a "sooner." The race was won easily by Fanshawe, 6st 7lb, with Fireclay, 8st 7lb, second, and Loredano, 8st 8lb, third.

Machine Gun astonished the touts at Randwick yesterday by getting over six furlongs on what is called the magpie track in 1min. 16sec. He had a solid weight up. Machine Gun is under orders to go to Melbourne.

Oblivion is now first favourite for the V.R.C. Grand National Hurdle Race at 5 to 1. Marmont is next in demand at 6 to 1. There is little straight-out betting on the Grand National Steeplechase, but Up-to-Date is a favourite selection in the doubles.

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THE BETTING MARKET.

Mr A. Bradshaw of Christchurch reports the following business on:— N. STEEPLCHASE AND HURDLES. 600 to 2 Catherine Gordon and Handsome Rose 900 to 1 Nor-west and Narcissus 550 to 2 Pipi and Outer 500 to 2 Kaiteere and Baltic 300 to 2 Slow Tom and Regulation, Slow Tom and Exmoor. THREE—WINTER CUP, G.N. STEEPL AND HURDLES. 200 to 1 Somaroff, Kaiteere and Trumpery; Rose Madder, Comfort and Rungarawa; Rose Madder, Kaiteere and Cavalry; Fontenoy, Kaiteere and Handsome Rose; Fontenoy, Kaiteere and Cavalry. Messrs Barnett and Grant Report the following business on the:— GRAND NATIONAL DOUBLE. 1000 to 15 Slow Tom and The Mohican 600 to 2 Slow Tom and Golden Combe 500 to 10 Slow Tom and Handsome Rose 500 to 7 1/2 Waitareere and Trumpery, Pipi and The Mohican 500 to 5 Waitareere and Regulation, Waitareere and Convo 500 to 2 Phaetonitis and Secret Society, Nor-west and Local Option. NEW ZEALAND CUP. 753 to 10 Joe Chamberlain 600 to 5 Thunderer 600 to 12 1/2 Beau Seaton 500 to 5 Lyrist, Delarey 300 to 15 Nightfall 300 to 12 Sir Tri-tam, Achilles.

Mr Robert Cleland reports the following business on the WELLINGTON STEEPL AND HURDLES. 100 to 5 Nor-west and Handsome Rose 100 to 3 Nor-west and Trumpery, Kiaterere and Cavalry, Kiaterere and Waiwera, Slow Tom and Handsome Rose 100 to 2 Lurcher and Handsome Rose, Slow Tom and Cavalry, Slow Tom and Pushful, Phaetonitis and Cavalry 100 to 1 1/2 Lurcher and Trumpery, Phaetonitis and Rungarawa 100 to 1 Phaetonitis and Magnificent, Defoe and Valima, Defoe and Magnificent.

Mr Arthur Law (Wellington) reports the following business on the NEW ZEALAND CUP. 500 to 25 Maniopoto 600 to 31 Achilles 200 to 8 Golden Knight 100 to 5 Quarryman 800 to 13 1/2 Manawaru 100 to 2 Orloff 1000 to 7 1/2 Lyrist 100 to 3 Multifid 500 to 10 Mellwood 100 to 3 Jeanne d'Arc 400 to 18 Melodeon

AMUSEMENTS.

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AMUSEMENTS.

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