

NOTES.

(By "THE JUDGE.")

A copy of Robert Blaikie's New Zealand Sporting Guide is to hand. It is very neatly got up, and contains a lot of information of much use to racing men, such, for instance, as the placed and unplaced performances of all horses engaged in the New Zealand Cup, starting price rules, etc., and is well worthy of perusal.

Tod Sloan has been reinstated by the American Jockey Club. It is probably too late to be of any good to him, as he is said to have gone right off as a rider.

It is pleasing to chronicle a win for Mr. R. Thorpe, who is one of the oldest trainers and owners in New Zealand. The veteran has not had a win for many a long day.

Mr. T. A. Williams came out at the head of the winning owners at Avondale, while Mr. A. Hansen ran him very closely.

Harry Harrison, formerly trainer for Major George, who underwent an operation and had one of his feet amputated at the ankle at the hospital some months ago, had again to face the severe ordeal and have his leg taken off at the knee.

The Auckland horse-owner and book-maker, Mr. W. Lyons, had a fair win in the Steeplechase, won by Up-to-Date, on the concluding day of the A.J.C. Spring Meeting. The commission averaged 7½ to 1, the starting price at the finish being 4 to 1. Mr. Lyons purposes leaving the son of St. Hippo in the Australian States, as the climate suits the horse's respiratory organs better than the moist one of Auckland.

Millie and Avalanche must be considered two of the luckiest horses competing at the late Avondale meeting. The former won the Flying Stakes with 6st 12lb, then annexed the Mount Albert Handicap with another stone, and finally defeated everything excepting Martyr King on the third day, carrying 8st 12lb. The game little bit of horseflesh won under 10st 12lb at Cambridge the previous week. Avalanche last season won in stakes £220, and was handicapped with 7st 10lb and 7st 12lb in her two races on the second and third days. Of course she won both easily.

Paritutu and Scotty both looked very jolly whilst competing at the Avondale meeting. They are neither yet fit, and the state of the ground prevented any chance they had of winning, but by the time November comes round they ought to be cherry ripe.

Percy Johnston did a bit of lightning changing at the late Avondale and Rangitikei meetings. He rode the winning double (Ranana) on Saturday at Avondale, and rode Kiatere in the Rangitikei Steeplechase and was back in time to have the mount on Ranana for the concluding day at Avondale. In this race the gelding was pulled up before the finish.

No less than five different horses landed doubles at the late Avondale meeting, just concluded, viz., Millie, Ranana, Avalanche, Marisa, and Waikato. There was, perhaps, a little too much leniency shown by the handicapper either on the first or second occasions.

Deeley came out top at Avondale amongst the knights of the pigskin easily with seven winning mounts. Deeley can still go to scale and ride at 6st 7lb.

The Maiden Plate was one of the best races of the late Avondale gathering, Mr. J. McClure's Trepine just getting home in the last few strides on the post from the big field of 17 others. The big son of Auric-Ocean cannot act well in the heavy going, being a long strider.

One of the worst treated animals at the late Avondale gathering was undoubtedly the moderate Jean. Last season she won a few races at country meetings in small fields, but when competing at the metropolitan or suburban gatherings she generally failed. Nine stone in the New Lynn Handicap was far beyond her.

It is not improbable that in the near future the Jockey Club will call upon the Epsom authorities to bring the value of the English Derby up to £10,000 for the first horse. At present the conditions provide for £5000 first horse, £500 for nominator of the winner, £300 for the second, and £200 for the third.

A number of youngsters purchased by Mr. George Wright in Sydney arrived by the Zealandia on Sunday.

Machine Gun, who returned to Wellington yesterday, has been entered for the C.J.C. Stewards' Handicap.

Nightfall, Sungod, Noctiform, and Isolt returned from Australia by the Moeraki, which reached Wellington yesterday.

Levant has been sent across to Sydney, where the little daughter of Nator and Roulette should soon get her name on the winning list.

The Geraldine meeting takes place today. If the course is not too holding Golden Knight should about win, while Tessera may pull off the Flying Handicap.

The declaration of the handicaps for the Wellington meeting has been postponed until October 6, so that Mr. Chadwick can see the form at Wanganui and Hastings.

Kilderkin, the winner of the Avondale Guineas, as a yearling only fetched 75 guineas, and was afterwards bought for 100 guineas at the Friedlander dispersal sale last year. The little son of Cyrenian ran exceedingly well in the heavy going.

Hinemoa is a very game little bit of stuff. It was generally thought that the three miles' journey would fine her out in the Second Steeplechase at Avondale, but instead the Rangatira pony was going better than anything at the finish, and she won without any apparent effort.

What a pity it is that the Victorian horse Emir has such an unreliable temper. When he takes it into his head to gallop he is considered by his trainer, J. Scobie, a shrewd judge, to be as good as Carbine at the latter's best. When Emir is in one of his perverse moods he shows form very worthy of a selling plater.

There have been few greater surprises than Vexations win in the Maiden Hurdle Race at Avondale. The daughter of Linstock and Vanity was the extreme outsider of the party, and when she was left twenty lengths at the start the odds against her winning looked big indeed. Towers rode a very patient race on her, making up the ground very gradually, and at the end she fairly romped in.

The Wanganui J.C. Spring Meeting commences to-day, when a first-class programme will come up for discussion. Excellent acceptances have been received for the various events, and the winners appear to be very well concealed. The following should figure prominently:—Spring Handicap, Lass o' Gowrie; Flying Handicap, Jolly Friar or Glenowlet; Okehu Hurdles, Waiwera; Gonville Hack, Sleepwell; Putiki Hack, Benmore; Wanganui Guineas, King Billy. The meeting will be concluded on Friday. A number of Auckland sportsmen have gone down to attend.

At Wellington Park Formula has a colt, Real Blue a colt, Simonias a filly, and Harpist a colt, all to Seaton Delaval. Crescent has produced a colt and Cressy a filly, both to Hotchkiss.

Old Satanella, who is now in her 25th year, has produced a filly to Soult, this making her sixteenth filly.

The sum of £3983 went through the machine at the Rangitikei meeting, as against £7252 last year.

Hutana was in good form at Rangitikei, easily winning both the Rangitikei and Clifton Steeplechases.

Soult was represented by five winners at the Avondale meeting, Cyrenian coming next with three winners. The St. Simon blood will tell.

Cruciform has been mated with Multiform this season, which seems most dangerously close in-breeding. Soult should have suited the champion mare far better.

In Sydney last week a couple of Market-street betting shops were raided, and the forty men caught on the premises were fined £5 each, or one month's hard labour. One of the shop proprietors paid the fines of the eleven men caught in his establishment.

Scotty has been scratched for the New Zealand Cup. He was very generally considered to be one of the most leniently-treated horses in the race, but perhaps there may be easier races to win nearer home without going so far afield.

Haydn has returned from Sydney after his unsuccessful efforts at the A.J.C. meeting.

The American owners, Messrs. J. R. Keen and H. R. Duryea, have nominated six and five youngsters respectively for the English Derby of 1907.

The good American performer McChesney was purchased recently by Mr. J. B. Haggin for stud purposes. It is stated that the horse's new owner gave £3000 for him.

The Multiform—Bluefire colt Cunei-form is to be given a run in the Wanganui Guineas. Punters will not look further for the favourite.

Since its formation in 1875, the Victoria Amateur Turf Club has paid away in added money £410,995. The club's assets now exceed its liabilities by £8642.

The success of Multiform's progeny at the recent A.J.C. Spring Meeting is causing Australian owners to send some of their mares to New Zealand to be mated with the horse named. The Melbourne Cup winner, Acrasia, is to visit him, as is that smart sprinter Portland Light.

Mr. Stead appears to hold something of a mortgage on the New Zealand Cup this year, and the result has been to greatly cramp the betting. Nightfall and Noctiform are the nominal favourites, no more than 7 to 1 being forthcoming about either.

As regards the merits of Noctiform, Isolt, and Sungod, I doubt (writes "Pilot" in the "Referee") whether there is much in it between the first mentioned two, both of whom are probably superior to Gungod. On the score of looks, Isolt has the call over the colts, and it is a long time since such a fine filly has been seen out at Randwick. In the Wycombe Stakes she had the measure of such a brilliant horse as Famous before the home turn was reached, and in the Members' Handicap she never once gave her supporters the slightest cause for uneasiness, despite the fact that she was carrying the tidy weight of 9st 5lb. Last year Mr. Stead won the Oaks at Christchurch with Nightfall, and it appears equally certain that he will do so on this occasion with Isolt. Nightfall was seen to every bit as great advantage as her younger stable companions, as though she could only get third in the Spring Stakes, she won the Squatters' Handicap through sheer gameness, and then on the concluding day simply ran away with the Randwick Plate.

The Grand National winner York has been purchased by an English sportsman, and will shortly be shipped to England (writes "Milroy"), where a horse of his fine speed, boldness, and activity in jumping is likely to do well over the regulation steeplechase (?) courses of the Old Country. The jumps on these regulation courses are about 3ft solid, with a couple of feet of brush, and a bold, quick jumper is needed at this class of business. Big, clever fencers of the Daimio—Norton type, who could jump country that would stick up nine-tenths of English steeplechasers, failed in the Old Country because they jumped over their fences instead of brushing through them as did their opponents, whereas Ebor, one of the best mile and a-half hurdlers we ever saw in Australia, took as kindly to the English steeplechase fences as a duck does to water, and carried all sorts of heavy imposts successfully.

In some of the American States at the present time a big effort is being made to suppress betting at racecourses. Referring to a recent case the New York "Sports of the Times" says:—"Like a thunderbolt from a clear sky came the news from Cleveland that the Mayor had issued an order to the Chief of Police to stop all bookmaking, pool-selling, and public betting at the Cleveland track. As a result the Cleveland meeting has been declared off. An attempt was made to transfer the meeting to Buffalo, but that was naturally objected to, as it would necessarily have a depressing effect upon the regular Grand Circuit meeting there the week following. Whether this is the end of the grand old track at Cleveland it is hard to say. It is to be hoped not. In an interview after the Mayor's message was received, H. M. Hanna, president of the company, said that the Mayor's action meant the closing of the track. 'Worse still,' he continued, 'it means that the horse-breeding industry in Ohio will be killed. The blow will be greater than is thought. The movement must spread throughout the State. In order to be consistent the Governor must stop pool-selling at each of the seventy-eight tracks in the State.'

AFTER THE RACES.

AVONDALE JOCKEY CLUB'S SPRING MEETING.

THIRD DAY.

The Avondale Jockey Club's Spring Meeting was brought to a conclusion on Saturday. The weather showed a slight improvement on Wednesday, but the showers were still all too frequent. The course was in a very heavy state, and the enclosure, especially in front of the grandstand, little better than a morass. Betting proved fairly brisk, the sum of £5309 going through the totalisator, bringing up the amount handled at the meeting to £14,723. The racing on the whole proved interesting, although one or two events were rather runaway affairs.

The Maiden Hurdles, one mile and three-quarters, which commenced the programme, was a peculiarly-run race. There were five runners, and the top-weight, Lady Clare, was made an even-money favourite. Vexation was left twenty lengths at the post, the other four being well together. Loch Feve and Lady Clare were responsible for most of the running, with Vexation toiling away far in the rear. At the back the second time round the favourite went to the front, and the race looked all over bar the shouting. Half a mile from home Towers made a move up on Vexation, and the unthought-of daughter of Linstock maintaining a long run, caught the field at the bend for home, and cutting down one after the other, won handily by three lengths from Lady Clare, with Te Papa four lengths off third.

War Cloud was the sole absentee from the New Lynn Handicap, this leaving a field of ten to try their luck in the five-furlongs' dash, and of these Discoverer was made a better favourite than Stepmar and Lunetta. The race admits of but little description, for Lunetta jumped away in front, and never giving anything else much chance, won without the whip by three lengths from Discoverer, with Ben, who came with a late run, in third position.

Punters soon dropped on Waikato as having the best chance in the Welter Handicap, six furlongs, and they backed the big son of St. Hippo down to a very short price. Not a few considered that the pony Lucrece might beat him, and she met with a lot of support. Waikato jumped off in front, and closely attended by Lucrece led the field into the straight. A great battle then ensued between them, Waikato being on the rails while Sceats kept Lucrece in the centre of the course on the better going. Both fought it out all the way under punishment, Waikato getting the verdict by a length, with Calle Iris four lengths off third.

There were six candidates for winning honours in the Steeplechase, three miles, and punters apparently overlooking Ranana's big rise in weight and the very heavy going, made Mr. Hughes' hollow-backed gelding a warm favourite. Directly Mr. Hanken gave them the word go, Hinemoa was taken to the front, and there the game little pony remained throughout, winning easily by four lengths from Major, who made a good run when the race was virtually won. The Swimmer fell two jumps from home when running second. Ranana ran well to the straight, but the weight told its tale; he struck a jump, cutting his stifles, and was pulled up. Kanaka finished well in, and seemed to like the soft going.

Seven runners carried silk in the Grandstand Handicap, and punters were not long making up their minds, for the leniently-treated Avalanche was promptly made a warm favourite, the next fancy being Akarana. The race is soon described, for directly the barrier rose Avalanche jumped away in front, and there she stayed to the end. Waipuna made a big effort in the straight to get level, but could not bring the pony to the whip. Putty was brought on the scene too late, but finished very fast in third place, just beating Akarana.

For the Electric Handicap, a scurry over four furlongs, there were eleven runners, and when the machine closed down Waitati was found to be by far the best supported. After a considerable delay at the post, Mr. Hankens let them away to a fair start. Waitati being the first to move. Before they had gone far Martyr King dashed to the front, and attended by Lady French and Discoverer, led into the straight. Directly heads were turned for home Martyr King drew out and won fairly comfortably by nearly two lengths from Millie, who was a similar distance in advance of Discoverer, with Desdemona close up fourth.

There were seven runners in the Pony Handicap, six furlongs, the popular selection being Eton and Marisa. The race was an exceedingly poor one, for it