

M. Hobbs has decided not to take any members of his team to Auckland, but may elect to go as far North as Manawatu with Pas Seul and Calibre.

OTAGO.

DUNEDIN, December 5.

The Tahuna Park Trotting Club concluded their spring meeting on Wednesday last, and the fixture panned out fairly well, both from a financial and sporting point of view, although there was a good deal of the inconsistent form which appears to be inseparable from trotting, and which no doubt tends to retard its growth in popularity with the public. The improvements made in the track were much appreciated, and if the straight is widened and the turns banked up more it should be made as fast as any course in the colony.

Twenty-four two-year-olds have had their engagements continued in the D.J.C. Champagne Stakes, which is to be decided at the next Dunedin Cup meeting. Included in the list are Ivanoff (the son of Stepniak and Arline, who ranks as this year's Welcome Stakes winner), Sir George Clifford's smart filly Kirriemuir (who carried the blue and yellow chequers with conspicuous success at the C.J.C. Spring Meeting), the Hon. George McLean's filly Afer, Mr. J. Buckley's Lady Landon, the high-priced colt Moscow, Lapland, Field Gun, and other well-bred and promising stock. Mr. G. G. Stead has a representative in the Multifiform—Fancit filly Edna May, and, taking the list all round, there is at present sufficient material engaged to make it the best two-year-old race ever seen at Wingatui up to date.

Owing to the success which attended the recent efforts of the S.C.J.C. to provide good stakes for horse-owners, it is probable that the club will issue an attractive programme for their next meeting. To get horses from a distance it is almost an absolute necessity to provide stakes worth winning, and which will leave a fair margin of profit over expenses. When our southern clubs realise this and act upon it in the same manner as the Oamaru and Timaru Clubs the sport in our end of the island will progress by leaps and bounds.

The Finland colt Canada came down from Christchurch a couple of days ago, and with his stable companion, Becky Seaton, will carry Mr. J. R. McKenzie's colours at some of the Southern meetings to be held during the holiday season.

It is pleasing to note that the nominations received for the Dunedin Jockey Club's Summer Meeting show the substantial increase of 45 over the numerical strength of last year's list, while those of last year were 27 in excess of 1903, and furthermore that the list contains a goodly percentage of horses trained at a distance, so that it may be taken that increased interest is being taken in the fixture. The names handed in as candidates for winning honours in the two principal events are not so strong in point of numbers as one would like to see, but still they are above the average, and should be found capable of supplying good sport. The minor events have filled very well, and the same remark applies to both of the two-year-old handicaps on the programme. The writer has always been confident that the Christmas meeting here will become one of the best gatherings of our season when the public have their interest thoroughly aroused by the good fields which follow liberally-endowed races. The dates in the first place do not clash with any other of note in the South Island, and consequently the greatest opposition comes from the North Island and the West Coast of the South Island. Dunedin should soon be strong enough to prevent horses being sent further afield in pursuit of stakes, and with ordinary luck there seems an excellent prospect of the coming Christmas fixture at Wingatui being the most successful summer gathering ever held on the course. The handicaps for the first day are due on Friday, December 15.

Amongst those who were present at the recent Tahuna Park Trotting Meeting was Mr. P. Mangin, who imported Imperious, Sacramento, and Electioneer from America many years ago. The value of Mr. Mangin's importations was evidenced by Elector (son of Electioneer) making a track record for the Park of 2min 19 3/5sec, and the blood of the abovenamed trio of horses form a splendid foundation for some of the latter-day arrivals to work upon.

A. Pringle was first past the post on three occasions at the Tahuna Park meeting, and a notable change has come over his style of riding since he first came into prominence as a rider. Pringle a few years ago was one of the most ungainly riders that ever sat on a trotter, and many well remember him sailing round the track with his legs stuck out like yardarms, whilst he bumped his mounts along in their races. Riding trotters, however, does not lend itself to pretty horsemanship, but rather to the get there style of jockeyship, and although his methods have changed the value of his riding has not cost anything in the acquisition of a neater seat.

Some riders and drivers adopt peculiar method of extracting speed out of their horses. During a race at the recent Tahuna Park meeting a driver had his whip at work between the hind legs of the horse he was handling, and instead of the animal going faster or maintaining its speed it broke up several times.

Word comes from an unofficial source that the Southland Racing Club will not license bookmakers at their summer meeting. The club has, with the exception of the recent spring meeting, when the fielders were painfully small during the past couple of seasons licensed the fielders and held successful meetings, so that their decision to bar them at their next meeting appears to be a case of merely following the fashion.

The moving spirits of the South Canterbury Jockey Club are under the impression, and not without reason, that their club has entered upon a new era of prosperity, and it is their intention to make their meeting second only to the C.J.C. gatherings. It is to be hoped that success will attend their future efforts, as their success will be sure to pull other clubs along with them.

HAWKE'S BAY

NAPIER, December 5.

King Billy Melodeon, Starshoot, and Boomerang are stepping out in a solid style, and if track form is a guide to triumphant public efforts, then the bearers of the blue and white racing livery should not return empty-handed from their Auckland campaign.

"Paddy" (J.) McLaughlin has just taken in hand Governess, a two-year-old half sister of Amphion. The youngster is called Mrs. Crawley, and is one of the sturdy class, with rare good understandings. McLaughlin's other pupils, Captain Shannon and Contender, give evidence that their mentor is missing no marks in his attention to his students.

Eruption is making good progress in his new sphere of work, namely, the leaping business. George Collelo, who has him in hand, has shown a lot of ability in the way that he has educated Florio for the obstacle clearing, and naturally he may be expected to make a successful fencer of Eruption, who has size and pace to commend him, though, unfortunately for those connected with him, he has an awkward knack of forgetting to do his best when stripped for the fray.

Goldfield, a nice out of a gelding by Go'd Reef out of Georgina, the dam of Maoriland, is showing out attractively in his efforts on the preparing track. Masters intends to take him and his stablemate, White Squall, to Woodville next week, where the brace have contracts to carry out at the summer meet-

ing of the Woodville District Jockey Club.

Waipunehu, Prospectus, and Probability, the three placed horses in the Maiden Hack at Feilding last week, were all bred in this district. Other successful equines at the fixture in Florio, Flo-tilla, Wind, and Armistice, also first saw the gleam of light in Hawke's Bay. Waipunehu, who runs in the interest of the Douglas Bros., was not bred by those studmasters, as he was foaled at Mangatarata Station. Mr. S. H. Gollan's estate, and was purchased as a yearling by the owners of the Te Mahanga breeding quarters. His victory on Wednesday last was the first that has been achieved by Waipunehu, notwithstanding that he has been going for some time. He is a half brother to Steepwell and Garoyole, and should when he has finished racing make an ideal station sire, a purpose for which he was really bought by his owners.

Benefactor, Tawa, Inspan, and Lurcher are the local neddies that have been nominated for the Greymouth Midsummer Meeting.

Mahutonga has heaps of friends here who are supporting him for his Auckland Cup essay.

WANGANUI.

WANGANUI, December 4.

The Feilding Jockey Club had the misfortune to experience wretched weather for their spring fixture, which to a certain extent interfered with the attendance, and in consequence there was a slight falling off in the totalisator returns. Notwithstanding this disadvantage the gathering was a very good one, and the racing was excellent, splendid dividends being the order of the day, proving thereby that the handicapping had concealed the various winners in good style. The various officials are to be heartily congratulated on the manner in which they carried out their duties, which were none too pleasant under the unfavourable climatic conditions prevailing.

Dave Chapman has Contingent, Blessbok and the hurdler Flanagan looking well, but the latter was given a run at Feilding, but failed to show up in the heavy going. The other two have been nominated for the West Coast Christmas fixtures, and may go down that way at an early date. Mr. McMahon, the Reefton sport, who owns Blessbok and Contingent, has not had much luck for some time past, but no doubt he will secure a good share of the liberal prize-money offered on the goldfields.

The defection of Sir Tristram for the Auckland Railway Handicap came as a blow to selectors of doubles here, as the Hawke's Bay sprinter had been freely coupled with Paritutu, Mahutonga, Quarryman, and Gladstone. Paritutu and Lady Annie appear to be the most fancied selection here for the Cup and Railway, and no doubt it is a pretty good one.

Harry Jackson's long spell of bad luck was broken at Feilding, when Armistice ran the race of her life, and annexed the big event on the opening day, returning her supporters a nice price. That her win was no fluke the daughter of Mahaki proved on the concluding day, when she again showed a clean pair of heels to the opposition. The little black mare was in great buckle, and her win was well received here, where her owner, Mr. Moore, and her mentor are very popu-

lar with the sporting public, who are not slow to appreciate the slice of good luck which has fallen to the connections of Armistice. No doubt should she journey to Auckland she will find good support in her engagements there. Jackson's other charge, St. Lyra, was not started at the fixture, her leg being not yet properly healed.

The Fordell-trained Delamere was looked upon by her connections as a moral for the Flying Handicap on the first day, but she got left badly and failed to get a place. On the second day, however, she fared better, and getting a good run won nicely from her opponents, and paying £6.

The remainder of Tilley's team that took part in the gathering did not run up to expectations, Asteroid, St. Joe and Handsome Rose each being well supported in their various races. Probably the going did not suit the former, or she may have been closer up in the St. Andrew's Handicap. Tautoru, another moral, did not come off the first day, but the son of Lethe ran better on the following day, and gained second berth in the hack event. He was well supported here on each occasion.

The pencilers had all the best of the argument over the Feilding meeting on the opening day, but punters got on to the winners in a splendid style the next day, and after settling up the metallicians found things just about balanced.

The price paid by Submarine when he ran second to Armistice was a surprise to his supporters, the son of Torpedo paying £4 4s, or £12 12s to win.

The principal event here this week is the Parliamentary Stakes, for which there are five acceptors, and all appear to find solid support. Party, Labour, and Prohibition are equal favourites, while Opposition has sprung into favour the last few days on the strength of a splendid gallop last Wednesday with Premier, in which he appeared to hold his own. The starters, with pedigree and riders, are:—Party (Government—Lobby), Willis; Prohibition (Water—Okehu), Bissett; Labour (Workman—Union), Hogan; Opposition (Freehold—Backblocks), Hazeldean; and Blue Flag (Chemistry—Enterprise), Gatenby. The result may be—Party, Labour, and Prohibition in that order.

WELLINGTON

WELLINGTON, December 3.

The Hutt and Porirua-trained horses were freely nominated for the Feilding J.C. events. Black Reynard, Ballarat, Alexieff, Armamento, Ropa and Kohini represented Mr. W. Davis' stable. The latter scored a fluky win in the Spring Hurdles from Pushful, whose rider was decidedly not in a fit state to ride, and should never have passed the clerk of the scales. Kohini certainly ran a good race, the best he has done for some time, but the easy manner in which Pushful scored on the second day when ridden by Frank Lind clearly demonstrated that Mr. Davis' aged gelding was lucky to defeat Mr. A'Deane's horse on the first day. The remainder of Mr. Davis' charges, with the exception of Ropa, who was runner-up in the Railway Welter, were never prominent in the events which they took part.

Kudu and Wind represented C. Pritchard's stable, and the latter, aided by

(Continued on page 11).

MR. ALF. ADAMS reports the following quotations on the Auckland Cup and Railway Handicap:—

Odds in Square are to ONE.	Railway Hdcp.	Auckland Cup															
		Hoboro 9 9	Lady Annie 8 9	Gladstone 8 9	King Billy 8 8	Annette 8 7	Glenowlet 8 5	Carl Rosa 7 9	St. Bill 7 9	Landlock 7 9	Boomerang 7 9	Starshoot 7 7	Certainty 7 3	Waitati 7 1	Noteorini 6 13	Monoforn 6 7	Gen'l Average 6 7
Mahutonga	9 0	20	50	100	100	50	50	100	100	50	150	150	150	50	150	150	100
Quarryman	8 13	33	50	100	100	40	25	100	100	33	150	150	150	50	150	150	66
Paritutu	8 4	25	50	100	50	50	40	100	100	33	150	150	150	50	150	150	150
Gladstone	7 13	20	66	300	100	40	66	150	100	40	150	150	150	50	150	150	100
Putty	7 8	50	100	150	150	100	100	150	150	66	200	200	200	50	200	200	200
Melodeon	7 7	100	150	200	150	100	150	200	200	100	250	250	250	150	250	250	250
Gay Spark	7 6	100	200	250	200	200	100	200	200	100	300	300	300	150	300	300	300
Armistice	7 4	100	150	200	200	150	150	200	200	100	250	250	250	150	250	250	250
Zuleika	6 10	66	200	200	200	100	100	200	200	100	300	300	200	150	300	300	300
Jewellery	6 7	100	200	250	250	200	200	250	250	150	350	350	350	200	300	300	300
Apologue	6 7	150	250	300	300	250	250	300	300	200	400	400	400	250	400	400	400
Heroism	6 7	250	300	600	300	300	200	300	300	100	500	500	500	250	500	500	500
Mast'r Delaval	6 7	250	400	500	400	300	400	450	450	300	500	500	500	350	500	500	500
Puhipuhi	6 7	200	400	500	400	300	400	450	450	200	500	500	500	350	500	500	500

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30,
AT 11 O'CLOCK.

UNRESERVED DISPERSAL SALE
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WELLINGTON PARK STUD.

The undersigned have received instructions from the Wellington Park Stud Co., Ltd., to sell

THE WHOLE OF THEIR VALUABLE AND WORLD-RENOUNDED STUD.

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At 11 o'clock Sharp.
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THOROUGHLY YEARLINGS,
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MENSCHIKOFF, BLUEJACKET, SEATON
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NOMINATIONS for all Events close with the Secretary, at the Drury Hotel, or with Mr H. B. Massey, High-street, Auckland, on FRIDAY NEXT, 8th December, at 9 p.m.
For Programme, see Posters or "Star" of November 11th.

J. KNOTT,
Hon. Secretary.