

WANGANUI.

Wanganui, January 10.

The well-known Wanganui rider, George Laing, rode Blessbok to victory in the first event at the Reefton meeting, but unluckily came to grief in the Hurdles later on in the same day, when Flanagan came down and George got a very severe shaking and sustained a nasty cut on the face. His many friends will be pleased to hear that he is progressing favourably, and no doubt he will soon have some more winning mounts.

I understand that Mr. Charlie Chavannes, who has so successfully officiated as starter in Wanganui and other places for some years past, intends giving up the game at the end of the present season. Though his starting at the last spring meeting here was not quite up to his usual standard, Mr. Chavannes may be said to have proved himself one of the best in the land at this business, and has given every satisfaction at the various clubs for which he has acted.

The Egmont Racing Clubs summer meeting is to be held on Wednesday and Thursday, February 14 and 15, and I would call the attention of owners to the fact that nominations are due with Mr. J. A. Turton, secretary, on Wednesday next, January 17. Auckland owners generally enter their horses freely for this gathering, which often enables them to pick up a stake or two while on their way to the Wanganui Cup meeting. It is expected that a number of Northern horses will be seen down this way this year.

A well-known racing enthusiast declares that he has seen more crooked running this season already than he has ever witnessed before. Moreover, he states that he is firmly convinced, after carefully watching the racing at the principal meetings in this part of the colony for some months past, that the reports as to the existence of a jockeys' ring is too true. He is a man who is not given to talking without his book, and there is no more experienced or better judge of the game than the person referred to.

Dr. Paget purchased Inglewood on the morning of the second day's races at Bulls, but the price paid for the Sylvia Park gelding has not transpired. The popular medico should win a stake or two with the gelding, who jumps well and has a lot of pace.

WELLINGTON.

Wellington, January 9.

Followers of racing are enabled to take a short respite owing to there being no racing until the 20th, when the W.R.C. open their new racecourse at Trentham. The recent showers have had a beneficial effect on the grass, which has come on splendidly, both on the race tracks and lawns, and should the club be favoured with dry weather for their gathering, their patrons will find a nice green turf to parade on by the 20th. Upwards of one hundred men are at present employed in and about the course. Forty loose boxes are finished, and some thirty more are under way. The trainers' accommodation house is ready, and visiting trainers and their charges can now be accommodated. The club's racecourse caretaker, Mr. White, with a gang of men, are attending to all details, whilst the club's secretary, Mr. A. E. Whyte, is daily in attendance, and under his watchful eye everything is progressing by leaps and bounds.

An immense concourse of people is expected to attend the opening meeting. Already the leading city hotels have all the available rooms bespoke, and hundreds of prospective visitors are engaging accommodation at the less fashionable establishments. Apparently the opening of the Trentham racecourse is considered by many a matter of much importance, and a gay throng may be expected to grace the lawns on the 20th should the elements prove propitious.

The Cup Handicap has met with a favourable reception at the hands of students of form, and a strong field is expected to face Mr. Piper. Additional interest is vested in the Cup from the fact that the club's president, Mr. J. E. Harcourt, presents the owner of the winner with a handsome trophy. The rider of the winner of the first race ran on the course (Anniversary Handicap) will receive from Mr. W. H. Turnbull, a steward of the club, a gold-mounted whip. These presentations will be made on the course, and should lend interest to the proceedings.

As most of the locally-owned horses have recently been racing, it is superfluous to say more than that they are all in the best of health, and their various owners are optimistic as to their prospects at the coming meeting. The Porirua stable have engaged boxes at Trentham for 16 horses. W. Davis, T. Higgott and T. Pritchard will be represented by their full strength. E. Cutts and R. J. Mason are expected from the North this week, and will probably be the first to exercise their charges on the new training tracks.

The Hon. J. D. Ormond, Messrs. E. J. Watt, Lowry, and Hunter, from Hawke's Bay, have engaged accommodation for their trainers and charges. From the far South Vladimir and Petrovna are coming, whilst H. Goodman has engaged boxes for Mr. St. John Buckley's team, which includes Convoy, Master Alix, and Lady London. The racing will thus be of a thoroughly interprovincial character.

The proprietors of the new electric totalisators have arrived from Australia, and are busily engaged erecting the new machines, which are said to be the most up-to-date in the colony. Visiting racing folks will find much to interest them outside the actual racing, and no doubt there will be many amongst the visitors who have never hitherto patronised a race course.

The matter of bookmaker racehorse owners has not yet been taken in hand by the executive of the W.R.C. It goes without saying that bookmakers will be rigidly excluded from the course, but it is just possible that the system adopted by the Manawatu Club with reference to certain metallicians, who own racehorses, may be followed. So far no determination has been come to regarding the matter. Solution, Ropa, and The Voucher represent knights of the pencil, who have hitherto been privileged to appear on the bulk of racing clubs' courses.

The racing at Wairarapa and Rangitikei was about up to the average. Class was not well represented. The Randwick Plate winner Martian performed indifferently in the Wairarapa Cup, and his poundage (9.8) was apparently beyond the little fellow, who ran in the rear throughout the race. With the others handicapped up to him on the second day he ran more prominently, but it was not a meritorious performance to be defeated by Boris at a difference of 5lb. The course was somewhat holding, and that, of course, may account for Martian's not being able to defeat the Porirua horse.

The Dunedin-owned mare Ailsa met nothing better than ex-hacks, and, as a matter of course, they failed to fairly extend her. The old adage that weight does not stop a good one when inferior class is met was amply demonstrated, and in the eyes of some Ailsa is looked upon as something of a champion. There is, however, no gainsaying that she is a nice stamp of a mare.

The strength of the opposition at the Wairarapa meeting may be gauged by the fact that Boris, who failed at Manawatu with 7.3 in the President's Handicap, won by Boomerang (7.4) easily annexed the Wairarapa R.C. Handicap with 9.0 on his back. The galloping at Manawatu may certainly have done Boris some good, but it was the poor class he met that enabled him to show to such advantage. Martian's performances were very disappointing, but he is apparently susceptible of much improvement.

January 10.

The Canterbury trainers, E. Cutts and R. Mason, arrived to-day. The former has taken Glenowlet and Clanchattan to Trentham. Kirriemuir having an enlarged knee will not fulfil her Wellington engagements, and has been sent home.

Gay Spark having gone lame has been sold to a Blenheim resident, and will be thrown out of training.

Cutts, jun., will arrive shortly with Signalman and Lady Wayward.

Mason's charges, Nightfall and Cunneform, are located at the Gardens, Lower Hutt, and will be worked on the Hutt course pending Mason's return from Christchurch, whither he went with Huascar. Mason will probably bring Delaware and Eden back with him.

The Cup is voted a very open race. The betting reports demonstrate that a number of horses are being solidly supported. Putty is quoted at 6 to 1, and has been supported for all the

available money on offer. Solution, Nightfall, Vladimir, and Auratus have been freely supported, both straight out and in doubles with Cunneform, Ailsa, Ballarat and Petrovna. Hohoro has also received strong support for the short race.

By the end of this week the stabling at Trentham will be completed. The accommodation house is ready for visitors, and has been placed in charge of Mrs. Banks, who is well-known to visitors to the Hutt racecourse.

Sport in Australia.

(By "Atlas.")

Sydney, January 3.

During the New Year holidays, which have been favoured with fine weather, the chief attraction to the racing community has been the meeting of Tattersall's Club, held at Randwick. It was started on Saturday, and in the very first event, the Hurdle Race, New Zealand was in evidence, as it was won easily by two lengths by Tenakoe, by Hotchkiss—Queen Cole. This brother to Battleaxe had to carry top weight (10.10), but the reputation of New Zealand is so great with the handicappers that any visitor from over the Tasman Sea may expect their flattering attention. A field of eight was engaged in Saturday's event, South Head being favourite at 7 to 2, and Gundare, Main-spring, Paragon and Baden were all better backed than the New Zealander. Tenakoe always held a good position, and going to the front in the straight won by ten lengths from Baden (9.5). South Head (9.13) and Gundare (9.9) ran a dead heat for third place. The victory of Tenakoe was welcomed by the ring, but it was about the only good turn they received at the meeting. Lest We Forget (7.9) was a warm favourite in the Lady Rawson Stakes, one mile, and she won nicely, and then the event of the day, the Carrington Stakes, six furlongs, came on for consideration. The large field of twenty then went to the post. Handsome was made a warm paddock favourite, leaving off at 3 to 1, while Mutation came next at 7 to 1, Cakewalk and Sir Richard at 8 to 1, and Binnia at 10 to 1. This formed the solidly-backed division. Projecture (7.8) made the running, but Sir Richard (8.10) got to the front a furlong from home, and won a good race by a length from Cakewalk (7.3), the imported mare Nan Nicer (6.13) third. The winner, who was heavily backed is by Grafton out of Roseleaf. The unlucky horse of the race was Cakewalk, as he did not get a good run. The distance was cut out in 1min 15½sec.

On the second day of the meeting, on Monday, there was another fine attendance. The principal event Tattersall's Cup, a sweep of 10sovs, with 700sovs added, two miles, brought out a field of twelve, the substantially-backed division being Ossin 7 to 2, Cakewalk 9 to 2, Mary Loch 3 to 1, Fabric 6 to 1, and Elvo 7 to 1. Cakewalk and Kaffirpan cut out the running half a mile from home. Fabric disputed the lead with Cakewalk. Fabric (8.0) was in front in the straight, and although gamely tackled by Elvo (8.1), won by a length, Marvel Loch (9.5) third. Time, 3min 30sec. Fabric, who is owned by that successful trainer and owner, R. Wootton, is a four-year-old by Bill of Portland—Chintz. He was purchased quite recently by Wootton for 1000 guineas, and it is probable that his owner will take him back with him to South Africa. His owner is reported to have won a pot of money by his victory. Only five started for the Steeplechase, Verger (10.7) being favourite, with the New Zealander, Dingo (11.10) next in demand. They finished first and second, but Verger's victory was a very hollow one, as he finished a furlong in front of Dingo, who was a couple of furlongs in front of the third horse, May Not (9.10). Altogether the meeting was an enjoyable one, and will result in a substantial benefit to the club.

A meeting was held on New Year's Day in Melbourne by the Victoria Racing Club. The principal event, the Bagot Handicap, one mile and a-half, was won by a neck by Zepho (6.7), from Shipmate (7.5), Hadji (6.7) third. The winner is by Pilgrim's Progress, now in New Zealand.

The leading event at the Queensland Turf Club's meeting on New Year's Day was the Midsummer Han-

dicap, which was won by Black Dram (7.8), Wheatbelle (7.4) second, and Seabreeze (8.6) third.

The West Australian Turf Club concluded a most successful meeting on Monday. The chief event of the day was the Imperial Stakes of 500sovs, one mile and a-half. The winner turned up in Phaedra.

TROTTING.

THE AUCKLAND TROTTING CLUB'S SUMMER MEETING.

CONCLUDING DAY.

The summer meeting of the Auckland Trotting Club was brought to a conclusion on Saturday. The weather was dull and threatening and before the programme had progressed very far rain commenced to fall and continued steadily for the bulk of the afternoon. Under the circumstances matters were not very pleasant, but Secretary C. F. Mark and his staff worked hard to keep matters moving, the result being that all the events were got through punctually and without any mishap. The attendance was large considering the weather, and the sum of £2884 10s was put through the totalisator, this making the amount machined during the meeting £9971. Mr. C. O'Connor succeeded admirably with the starts, and some good racing was the outcome.

Proceedings opened with the Trial Trot, one mile and a-half, for which Eureka, Tataraimaka, and Lissie Bheg were very evenly supported. The unhappily-named Gory Lass on a long start made nearly all the running, but Tataraimaka gradually overhauled, and showing more pace up the straight the daughter of Albert Victor got by and won handily by 15 yards.

Cleveland's Pride was a strong fancy for the Second Pony Trot, one mile, in which there were five runners. The favourite was in front the great bulk of the journey, but with heads turned for home a slashing race ensued. Mangonui was first in less than a yard ahead of Cleveland's Pride, while Fibre was five yards further off third.

Lady Nannie looked a fairly good thing in the New Year Handicap, with Storyteller next in request. The race proved an excellent one, four of the five runners being bunched. With heads turned for home Gladys Rose and Lady Nannie drew out, and the former staying it out best, won by half a length from Lady Nannie.

Next followed the big event, the President's Handicap, two miles, and of the eleven runners Bell Car carried far the most money. Favoured by a liberal handicap he was soon out in front, with Sir Robert as his nearest competitor. Despite a break in the second round the son of Bellman held his own with ease, romping home fifty yards ahead of Waitekauri, with Harold Abdallah a fair third.

The King George gelding Peacock was made a hot pot for the Park Trot, one mile and a-half, for which there were eleven runners, and once again punters showed that their judgment was not astray, for he won comfortably by fifteen yards from Tataraimaka, with Little Paul in third place.

Eight turned out for the High-class Trot, for which the actual favourite was Mint, although Mistle and Waitekauri had no lack of supporters. Taihoa led in the early stages, but then Mint got past. As they entered the straight Mistle drew up to Mint, and the stable mates raced home together, Mistle winning by a dozen yards, with Taihoa a good third. The first and second horses were coupled on the machine.

Of the six runners in the Grandstand Handicap, five furlongs, Girton Girl was made an odds-on favourite. Rapid was out in front for a bit, but fell, this leaving Girton Girl in possession, and she came on and won by two lengths from Resurgam, with Frederick a bad third.

The curtain was rung down with the Telegraph Trot, one mile, for which Prince Tuxie was more fancied than Norval. The favourite showed the way for the bulk of the distance, but Norval caught him at the bend for home, whereupon a great race occurred all the way up the straight, Norval winning by little more than a yard, with Miss Huon, who finished very fast, close up third.

The following were the results:—