

Diamond Jubilee have both fetched more money than Ormonde, without, however, approaching the sum paid by M. Edmoid B'anc. Details:—

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Flying Fox, b c, by Orme—	
Vampire, 4yrs	39,375
Diamond Jubilee, b h, by St. Simon—Perdita II, 8yrs	31,500
Cyllene, ch h, by Bona Vista—	
Arcadia, 10yrs	31,500
Ormonde, b h, by Bend Or—	
Lily Agnes, 9yrs	31,260
Ormonde, b h, by Bend Or—	
Lily Agnes, 6yrs	12,000
Sceptre, b f, by Persimmon—	
Ornament, 4yrs	25,000
Sceptre, b f, by Persimmon—	
Ornament, 1yr	10,500
Duke of Westminster, b c, by Orme—Gantlet, 2yrs	22,050
Galtee More, b c, by Kendal—Morganette, 4yrs	21,000
St. Blaise, ch h, by Hermit—Fusée, 11yrs	20,000
Ard Patrick, br c, by St. Florian—Morganette, 4yrs	21,000
Kendal, ch h, by Bend Or—Windermere, 18yrs	10,500
Kendal, ch h, by Bend Or—Windermere, 10yrs	18,000
Bona Vista, ch h, by Bend Or—Vista, 8yrs	16,458
Meddler, b c, by St. Gatien—Busybody, 3yrs	15,225
Meddler, b c, by St. Gatien—Busybody, —	11,000
Common, br c, by Isonomy—Thistle, 3yrs	15,000
Matchbox, b c, by St. Simon—Match Girl, 3yrs	15,000
St. Gatien, b h, by Rotherhill or The Rover—St. Editha, 10yrs	14,000
Doncaster, ch h, by Stockwell—Marigold, 5yrs	14,000
Doncaster, ch h, by Stockwell—Marigold, 5yrs	10,000
Hamburg, b h, by Hanover—Lady Reel, —	14,000
Hamburg, b h, by Hanover—Lady Reel, —	12,000
Carbine, b h, by Musket—Mersey, 9yrs	13,500
La Fleche, br m, by St. Simon—Quiver, 7yrs	13,230
Blair Athol, ch h, by Stockwell—Blink Bonny, 11yrs	13,125
Kangaroo, b c, by Hobbie Noble—Yarra Yarra, 3yrs	12,000
Nasturtium, ch c, by Watercress—Marguerite, 2yrs	10,000

Mr. O'Connor's starting at Takapuna at the late meeting was the best ever seen on the seaside racecourse.

The Canterbury Jockey Club's summer meeting takes place to-day and on Saturday. It is, however, of little more than local interest.

The Otahuhu Trotting Club's summer meeting takes place on Saturday week. The handicaps for the first day's events will be found in another column.

Eleven fillies remain in the Great Northern Oaks after payment of the second forfeit. The best appear to be Isolt, Marguerite, Munjeet, and Annette.

Twenty-six have been left in the G.N. Champagne Stakes, but there will be a fairly extensive weeding out before the day of the race.

A fair number of Auckland horses have been handicapped for the Egmont Summer Meeting. Among the list appear the names of Leonator, Lady Annie, Discoverer, Khama, Le Beau, Landlock, Scotty, Gladstone, Jewellery, Cyrano, Polycaste, Wai-kato, and Lovelink.

Maniapoto has 8st 13lb and Mahutonga 8st 11lb in the Australian Cup.

Isolt is the Yaldhurst representative in the Middle Park Plate.

Kirriemuir, who was injured at the A.R.C. meeting, has made her reappearance on the track at Riccarton.

First-class nominations have been received for the summer meeting of the Poverty Bay Turf Club.

Eighty horses are in the Newmarket Handicap, and Machine Gun is asked to give away all sorts of weight up to 4st 10lb.

Gladstone has been allotted 9st 11lb and Maniapoto 2lb less in the Newmarket Handicap.

I cannot quite understand why Le Beau should have been so comparatively friendless in the Welter Handicap on Saturday. The Leolantis gelding had shown that he was well winning at Ohaupo, and also the Maiden Hurdles at Takapuna. The field was a weak one, and he was nicely treated in weight, yet of the nine runners only two carried less money. Le Beau got well away, led all the way, and won very easily by three lengths.

Takaro, who won the Borough Handicap on Saturday, is a five-year-old chestnut gelding by Castor from St. Mary. He was credited by those who knew him with quite enough pace to win if a good horseman could be procured for him. There was some difficulty about this, but young Parramore, who was given the mount, rode a good finish and won by half a length.

The double machine at Takapuna proved exceedingly popular, the rush for tickets being very great. By the way, it would not be a bad place to station an official outside the window during the crush with a view to doing away with the nuisance created by those people who cannot or will not take their place in line, and pestering those who do so to get them tickets. This may be a small thing, but it is a particularly irritating one. Increased accommodation will also have to be provided.

The yearling colts by Soult—Rose and White, and Soult—Lady Emmeline, arrived safely in Melbourne. Both are owned by Mr. K. S. McLeod, and will be trained by I. Foulsham.

Mr. Menzies, the V.R.C. handicapper, is evidently of the opinion that a victory for a New Zealand horse in the Newmarket Handicap is inadvisable, for he has allotted Machine Gun the utterly absurd impost of 11st 3lb in the big six furlongs' event at Flemington. Nobody doubts that the son of Hotchkiss is an exceedingly fine sprinter, but it must not be overlooked that the list of entries contains the names of all the best sprinters in the Commonwealth. The handicap looks so exceedingly bad that no doubt the scratching pen will promptly be put through Machine Gun's name.

Mr. Dent, secretary of the Whangarei J.C., was in town last week arranging a (non-tote) meeting to take place next month. When at Tattersall's Club, members of that body guaranteed £50 for the sole right to do business at the meeting.

Punters who usually follow C. Neale's stable had a royal day on Saturday last. In addition to getting a £6 17s dividend on Takaroa in the Borough Handicap, they also landed the winning double, finishing up with Gladstone, a further increase in their winnings of £33 19s.

In England last year the 457 yearlings and foals sold at auction averaged 281 guineas.

Of the 1697 races run in Great Britain last year, 471 were confined to two-year-olds.

Cross-country riders get plenty of work in England, and from January 1 to December 22 of last year F. Mason had 251 mounts, scoring 68 wins. An amateur, Mr. W. Bulteel, won 43 races out of 172 rides, but the best averages were those of A. Newey (41 out of 125) and S. Menzies (31 out of 94).

Selling races play a very important part in most programmes in England, and a couple of these events each day seems to be nothing unusual even at the principal courses. In England last year 1597 races were decided at the various meetings, and of that number no less than 473 were of the selling order. These events seem to be popular with owners as well as the clubs in the Old Country, probably owing to the fact that any surplus over the price for which a horse is entered to be sold is divided between the club fund and the second. This often leads to the owner of the second horse benefiting more than if he had won the stake.

Horse racing is a great story of "give and take" (remarks a London paper). The King made a bad bargain when he gave a very high price for Moifaa; but, on the other hand, he made an extremely good one when he gave £500 for Ambass II. The horses of His Majesty last year failed miserably, and now we hear, as something more than a set off, that he has sold Diamond Jubilee for, it is said, 30,000 guineas to go to South America. As several subscriptions had been taken for the horse for next season, he will not be delivered until June, and thus he may have two seasons in one year, as we believe Ormonde had. That Diamond Jubilee is a loss to the country we do not for one moment believe, and though he can boast of having won the triple crown, it can equally be said that he is the worst horse that ever achieved that great distinction. Epsom Lad, who was cut and sold for 1000 guineas, beat him when he was two years old. They did not meet again until they were four years old, when in three races Epsom Lad again asserted the superiority. Diamond Jubilee had the luck to be born in a bad year, and, being very heavily engaged, moderate as he was, he was able to win in stakes close on £30,000. As he has now been sold for another £30,000, this means £60,000 for one horse alone, and the money may almost be taken as net, seeing that his three seasons at the stud would far more than pay for the forfeits and training expenses.

Professor Ridgeway, in his "Origin and Influence of the Thoroughbred Horse," refers to the practice among various peoples of attaching talismans to their horses to ward off ills. The modern Italian fastens a piece of badger's hair or a tooth to his bridle in order to guard the horse against evil. The Greek ties an elaborate amulet about its neck. The Kabyles of Kairfan hang round the necks of their asses a thick woollen cord (purple and white), to which are attached two triangular amulets covered with purple velvet embroidered with imitation Arabic writing in gold thread, and having a small round button between them. The Coringas of the Madras coast, it may be added, will never allow the shell which they tie about their ponies' necks to be taken off lest the evil the shell is supposed to avert should befall them. It is thought by some authorities that the brass ornaments on the blinkers of our own dray horses may be survivals of similar "protective charms."

Mr. F. N. Jones courteously forwards me a copy of the souvenir programme issued by the Nelson Jockey Club for the carnival meeting, which took place on January 29 and 30. It is very nicely got up, and besides containing a mass of information, is profusely illustrated with portraits of officials of the club and members who have been identified with it in years gone by.

Quite a number of sports landed the winning double at the late T.J.C. meeting. Among them were a coal merchant, a well-known medico, a totalisator proprietor, and last, but not least, two Austrians, who firmly believe in "this and the next way" of betting every time.

Mark Ryan had 12 mounts at the T.J.C. meeting, and about the worst exhibition that he made was in the Cup on Scotty. He redeemed this, however, by fine horsemanship on Noteorini in the Devonport Handicap on Saturday. He had two winning mounts at the meeting.

#### THE STRATFORD RACING CLUB.

The annual race meeting of the Stratford Racing Club is to take place on Wednesday and Thursday, March 14 and 15. The programme is a very good one, as will be seen by glancing at our advertising columns. The chief events on the opening day are the Stratford Cup Handicap of 150 sovs, nine furlongs; and Flying Handicap of 90sovs, six furlongs. On the second day most interest will attach to the St. Patrick's Handicap of 110 sovs, one mile; and the County Hack Handicap of 70sovs, one mile; and the Final Handicap of 75sovs, six furlongs. The Stratford Club will refund to owners and trainers the steamer freight one way, or the railway freight, on all horses attending and competing at the meeting from the Auckland district, or from stations south of Wanganui on the Wellington-Napier-New Plymouth section of railway. This is a substantial concession, and in conjunction with a good programme should have the effect of securing nominations from Auckland. Entries close with Mr. J. R. Mackay, the secretary, on Saturday, February 24, at 9 p.m.

#### THE PATEA RACING CLUB.

The annual meeting for hacks only of the Patea Racing Club will be held on Easter Monday, April 16, when a programme of eight events will be decided. These will be as follows:—Handicap Hurdles of 50 sovs, one mile and a-half; Flying Handicap of 60sovs, six furlongs; Farmers' Plate of 40sovs, one mile; Patea Easter Handicap of 80sovs, one mile and a-quarter; Kakaramea Stakes of 40sovs, four furlongs and a-half; Borough Stakes of 50sovs, seven furlongs; Alton High-Weight Handicap of 60sovs, one mile; Final Handicap of 40sovs, four and a-half furlongs. Full particulars will be found in our advertising columns, together with the rules and regulations governing the meeting. Nominations close with Mr. R. W. Hamerton, the secretary, on Monday, March 26, at 8 p.m.

#### THE ROTORUA MEETING.

The Rotorua Jockey Club will hold their annual race meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, February 28 and March 1. Eight events will be run each day, these being as follows:—First Hurdles of 25sovs, one mile and three-quarters; Electric Handicap of 20sovs, five furlongs; Rotorua Cup of 60sovs, one mile and a-quarter; District Hack Handicap of 15sovs, seven furlongs; Waimangu Handicap of 15sovs, seven furlongs; Mourea Hurdles of 20sovs, one mile and a-half; Railway Handicap of 25sovs, seven furlongs; Shorts Handicap of 15sovs, four furlongs. On the second day the items will be the Second Hurdles of 25sovs, one mile and three-quarters; Stewards' Handicap of 15sovs, six furlongs; Arawa Park Handicap of 45sovs, one mile; Bay of Plenty Hack Handicap of 15sovs, one mile; Geyser Handicap of 20sovs, five furlongs; Kia Ora Hurdles of 20sovs, one mile and a-half; Hot Lakes Handicap of 25sovs, seven furlongs; and the Farewell Handicap of 15sovs, four furlongs. Nominations for all races close with the secretary, Mr. W. T. Carr, at Rotorua, or with Mr. H. H. Hayr, High-street, Auckland, to-morrow (Friday) evening at 9 p.m.

## .. NOTES ..

(By "THE JUDGE.")

The Gisborne Racing Club will hold their summer meeting to-day and to-morrow.

What was the matter with Hohoro and Certainty in the Devonport Handicap? Both were very heavily backed, but the pair ran very badly indeed, and were never near the leaders.

The Soult gelding Sol continues to annex jumping events with the utmost regularity. He won the Rangitoto Steeplechase under 10.13, and the Ponui Steeplechase with 11.8 in the saddle, the latter being perhaps the easier victory of the two. Sol must be considered Auckland's best 'chaser.

The finish of the Devonport Handicap on Saturday was one of the finest ever seen on the course. Miss Winnie led to within thirty yards of home, when Noteorini caught her. The pony Lucrece on the outside challenged the pair, and in many of the spectators' opinions won by a head. It was, however, one of those races which nobody but the judge could decide, and Mr. Lusk's verdict was for Noteorini a nose in front of Lucrece, who was a nose in front of Miss Winnie.

Rightly or wrongly, a strong impression undoubtedly prevails that many of our pony races are all arranged beforehand. Certainly the form shown by members of the lilliputian brigade is frequently of the most in-and-out description, and some particularly glaring things are occasionally done. So much is this the case that according to our Otago correspondent the bookmakers in Dunedin are now refusing to do business on pony events in Auckland.

When half the distance of the Summer Handicap had been run on Saturday, Gladstone looked to have a slender hope of scoring, for Cress was vigorously riding the chestnut with his hands, and he seemed to be holding his position with difficulty. Once in the straight, however, there was a different tale to tell, and the leaders fading out of the contest, the son of Seaton Delaval came through and won easily.

The Castor gelding Khama ran very consistently at the Takapuna meeting, winning both the Orewa Hurdles and the Waiwera Hurdles in good style.