

A WELL-MERITED PRESENTATION.

Mr. Harry H. Hayr, the secretary of the Avondale Jockey Club and proprietor of the totalisator at the A.R.C. and other meetings, is perhaps one of the best-known and most popular of Auckland sportsmen. On Monday last was his birthday, and he took advantage of the occasion to entertain a large number of friends to a game dinner at his residence in Harbour-street. Among those present were Messrs. H. T. Gorrie (president of the Auckland Racing Club), J. F. Hartland (secretary A.R.C.), Robert Wynyard (secretary Takapuna J.C.), Richard Duder, Robert Duder, and many other well-known sportsmen. A very tempting banquet had been prepared under the personal superintendence of Mrs. Hayr, the menu being as follows:—

- Pukaka Soup.
- Bittern Soup.
- Quail on Toast.
- Wild Pigeon Pie.
- Roast Pheasant. Roast Wild Duck.
- Roast Teal. York Ham.
- Green Peas. Asparagus. Potatoes.
- Kumeras.
- Apple Pie. Apricot Pie. Jellies.
- Hot House Grapes.
- Pineapples. Oranges. Bananas.
- Dates. Apples.
- Muscateles and Almonds.
- Cheese and Celery.
- Olives.
- Tea and Coffee.

WINE LIST.

- Champagne:
- Heidsieck's Dry Monopole.
- Sparkling Burgundy. Roussillon,
- Reserve Cuvee, 1895.
- Port. Sherry. Claret.
- Whisky: Buchanan's.
- Robertson's. Gaelic. Watson's.
- Brandy.
- Ales:
- Kupper's Lager. Ward's Sparkling.
- Speight's Sparkling. Hancock's
- Imperial.

- Mineral Waters. Lemonade. Soda
- Water. Ginger Ale.

- Havana Cigars. Cigarettes.

When the good things had been done ample justice to, Dr. Sharman, on behalf of numerous friends, presented Mr. Hayr with a very fine solid silver tea and coffee service, while Mrs. Hayr was the recipient of an exceedingly handsome chatelaine. In making the presentation, Dr. Sharman referred to the good work done by Mr. Hayr, both for his club, the public and the sport generally, the sentiments expressed being warmly applauded. Mr. Hayr, who was completely taken by surprise by the presentation, feelingly thanked the donors for their valuable gifts, and also for the kindly sentiments expressed, after which the remainder of the evening was given up to cards and music.

According to an English publication, Carbine has got upwards of 200 foals since he went to the stud in 1897. Last year he got 16 foals, several mares put to him proving barren.

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Phyllis Fay, Violet St. Clair, Violet Frawley, Ward Lear, Two Kranks, Frank King, Clara Keating, Jack Hagan, The Rowells, Lal Logie.

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INTER - PROVINCIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

CANTERBURY.

Christchurch, June 20.

At the annual meeting of the Ashburton County Racing Club, held last week, the report presented stated that the Spring Meeting was the most successful for some years past, returning a profit of £237, while on account of bad weather the Autumn Meeting resulted in a loss of £44. The club, however, is in a very sound position, as the liabilities only amount to £12, while the assets total £636 odd, including £410 on fixed deposit and £183 in cash. The club has wisely decided to recommend the incoming committee to expend money in erecting a new grand stand and erecting other improvements. At Ashburton, as at most other country clubs in this district, the totalisator plant is altogether inadequate to the demands made upon it, and if the clubs would only expend some money on improving matters they would find themselves well repaid. Mr. T. E. Upton, who was elected chairman of the Ashburton Committee, is now serving his eleventh year in that capacity.

H. Soloman has sold First View to a West Coast buyer. This gelding should not have been an unprofitable investment to his late owner, who secured several races with him.

In view of Hewitt's intended departure for the Old Country considerable curiosity has been expressed as to who would succeed him as first horseman for the Yaldhurst stable. It is now announced that at the termination of Hewitt's engagement in February next J. McCombe has been engaged to ride for Mr. Stead. I think it will be admitted that in retaining McCombe's services Mr. Stead has secured one of the very best horsemen in the colony.

Riccarton stables are pretty well represented in the Wellington nominations lists of candidates in the jumping events, including Rongoa, Eurus, Slow Tom, Phaetonitis, Wiwaka, Roller and Ability, while in the flat events

Sir Geo. Clifford has engaged Chryseis and Stronghold.

Ability has been accepted for at Hawke's Bay, and it may be taken for granted that he will give a good account of himself in whatever event he is started. The Conqueror gelding has made a most auspicious debut as a hurdler, for at his first attempt over sticks at Wanganui he ran second to Hydrant, following this up with a win on the second day. At Auckland he started twice, winning on the first day and running third on the second day of the meeting.

Affairs at Riccarton are still very quiet, and the weather experienced at the end of last week was not calculated to induce a great deal of work. Still a fair amount of jumping took place on Thursday last. The most notable event of the morning was Tirole's first performance over hurdles. The Captain Webb gelding was given a trial over small hurdles and shaped fairly well.

The Guesser and The Mohican were given some schooling, but their display was not brilliant.

Narcissus and Graduated Tax were sent over big fences and jumped well, though the latter was tiring at the finish.

Slow Tom, who is looking first-class, also did useful work.

Mason has taken up the yearling filly by Multiform—Helen Faucit, who is therefore full sister to Edna May.

Business quoted on the New Zealand Cup includes the following: 200 to 14 Boomerang, 300 to 18 Martello, 500 to 20 Lyrist, 600 to 8 Armistice, 500 to 15 Auratus, 500 to 15 Stepdancer.

Although the nominations for the principal events at the New Zealand Grand National Meeting do not close until Friday evening, backers are already at work trying to pick the double. Phaetonitis and Exmoor have been backed at 800 to 8, Comfort and Cavalry 700 to 6, Comfort and Exmoor 600 to 9, and Comfort and Shrapnel at the same price.

OTAGO.

Dunedin, June 20.

J. McCombe has accepted a retainer from Mr. G. G. Stead, and will become premier horseman to his stable when L. H. Hewitt leaves for England. McCombe has donned the yellow jacket and black cap on one occasion only, and that was when he rode Bloodshot second to Hippomenes at the Dunedin Cup Meeting of 1895, but he will not need much luck to prove himself capable of being mentioned in the same breath with the late Wally Clifford and other crack horsemen who did yeoman service under the same banner. For years past the writer has always been a strong admirer of McCombe's horsemanship, and it is not a case of saluting the rising sun to state that few are his equal in the saddle, and his superiors are yet to be found. He is equally at home over short and long courses. In the former, he is always amongst the first away from the barrier if his mount is inclined to jump out at all, and over long journey courses he rides with judgment and patience, whilst at the business end he is a very vigorous finisher. On top of this, he can go to the scale at a handy weight, and it is never any trouble for him to attend the tracks in the morning. It is rumoured that Sir Geo. Clifford was also after McCombe's services, and whilst wishing him luck when he dons the yellow and black it is to be hoped that he has not altogether laid aside the racing banners of the Hon. Geo. McLean or Mr. St. John Buckley, for both of whom he has ridden some good winners.

Owing to Mr. J. Sinclair Thomson having disposed of his property at Goodwood, the thoroughbred stock owned by him are to be placed under the hammer on the 26th inst. The stock includes a rising two-year-old colt by Pilgrim's Progress from the Albany—Miranda mare Vaultless, the dam of Pitch and Toss and Mountebank; a rising yearling filly by Saint Ilario from Black Cloud, a rising yearling by Obligado from Vaultless, and the brood mares Vaultless and Black Cloud. Vaultless is stinted to the Government stallion Basuto, and Black Cloud (King Cole—Wai) is stinted to Lord Rosslyn.

The Ashburton Racing Club have recommended their committee to expend a sum of money in the erection of a new grandstand on their course and making other improvements. A new stand on the course is absolutely necessary, as at present the club are in possession of the worst one in the South Island.

It is said that a Wellington gentleman who recently drew a first prize valued at £6000 in Tattersall's missed a boat running from Sydney to this colony, and as a consequence travelled via Hobart. At the latter place he took a ticket in the famous sweep for the fun of the thing, and bagged the above-mentioned sum as a result of his "unfortunate" accident in Sydney.

The Blackstone—Red Riding Hood colt is being ridden, and comports himself in the streets with the composure of a veteran. The youngster is furnishing nicely, and should prove a bargain at the figure which Mr. J. McKewen paid for him some few weeks ago.

Dame Rumour is busy with the name of a prominent and fairly wealthy North Island horse-owner, who, it is alleged, has indefinitely deferred payment to several metallicians operating both in this colony and Australia.

Someone is evidently of opinion that Welbeck will be after lepping honours shortly, as he has been coupled with Slow Tom in some of the busi-decided at Riccarton.

WANGANUI.

June 20.

An 18-months-old colt named Epsom Downs, belonging to Mr. Alf. King, is now being handled. The colt is chestnut in colour, and is a nicely-shaped thing, which should develop into a fine horse.

In view of the Egmont-Wanganui Hunt Clubs' annual race meeting, which will take place in August, Mr. J. Blair's Betty has been put in work again. Mr. Duncan Blair's Blanco is also in work.

I understand that Mr. George Morse will not be doing the handicapping for the Hunt Club Meeting this year, as he finds that he cannot spare the necessary time. In the past, Mr. Morse's handicapping for the club has always given the utmost satisfaction, and it is greatly to be regretted that he has found it necessary to relinquish the position he has filled so ably.

A half-brother to Ranana—Selector (which was in work on the local tracks—has been turned out, but will be taken up again later on.

Mr. Geo. Smith intends to race Parau at the forthcoming Hunt Club Meeting. Mr. Smith has bought Champion from Mr. Walter Young. The son of Crackshot—Juanita will probably be raced at the Hunt Club Meeting.

It was stated recently in a Northern paper that Jack Telford was acting as private trainer for Mr. L. G. Bremer, of Kakaramea, but I fancy I am correct in saying that Mr. Bremer's horses have for some months past been in Harry Eva's charge. The horses include Kareroa (a rising four-year-old by St. Clements—Kohina), Fishmere and St. Cyress.

I hear good accounts of the way Black Reynard has been acquitting himself over the little sticks recently, and the son of Reynard gives promise, I am told, of being a top-notch at the game, as he jumps faultlessly. He may be given a chance to distinguish himself at the Napier Park Meeting. The other big guns of A. Hall's team—Shrapnel, Kremlin and Kiatere—are also reported to be in capital nick, and between them should win a race or two at the Hawke's Bay Meeting this week.

The improved form shown recently by Martello has evidently inspired some people with confidence that the Hotchkiss colt is likely to have a chance in the next New Zealand Cup. Three local sports have between them secured £2000 to £6 about him. It is quite on the cards that the colt will yet make a name for himself on the turf worthy of his aristocratic lineage.

St. Lyra was progressing well in her work up to a couple of days ago, when the St. Leger mare began to show signs of having something wrong with her, and a vet. had to be called in. It was intended to send her over to compete at the Hawke's Bay Meeting, but I understand that it is now doubtful whether she will make the trip.

Little or nothing is being done here on the tracks at present, though a few horses are being got ready for the Hunt Club Meeting, which is being looked forward to with considerable interest, as this annual fixture is always a most enjoyable one.

The Fordell stable will be represented at the Hawke's Bay Meeting; Nova and Handsome Rose, who are both trained by Fred Tilley, have accepted for the first day.

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C. R. TAPPER, Hon. Sec.