

**WANGANUI.**

WANGANUI, December 31.

There is little or no local news this week in the racing world. The great sporting event of the week has been the Stanbury-Webb sculling match, which kept hundreds away who would otherwise have gone to the Manawatu Meeting.

Armistice was fairly well supported for the Auckland Cup, but the fact that she did not get a place did not surprise many.

Lord Sout's again demonstrated what a brilliant little horse he is by annexing the Awapuni Handicap at Palmerston. The pony has put up a great record this season, and it is safe to say that there is nothing in the colony more brilliant at present.

Handsome Rose has at length credited his owner, Mr W. Chapman, with another win, which was long overdue. He beat a good sized field in capital style at Palmerston, and paid £7 2s—a nice price.

St. Joe was withdrawn from the Cup in favour of Apa, but the latter was not quite good enough to win, being beaten by Bourasque by a head. Whether or not St. Joe could have won is hard to say, but he would have been well backed had he started. Apa ran a good race, and so did Truce, who was only a head behind the second horse.

Champion had been doing capital work on the training track, and had a good number of local supporters for the Hack Hurdles, but though he was well ridden by Frank Lind, who also trains the Crackshot gelding, he could only get second.

Although General Peel had a "knee" he managed to score in the Ladies' Purse at the Taranaki Meeting. Another Wanganui owned and trained one in Tonderghie, scored in the Hurdles. The winner, who belongs to Mr A. Tucker, paid £2 10s. He is trained by Boyd, who also rode him. Mr Vivian, the well-known local amateur, was on General Peel when he won.

**THE DRURY MEETING.**

The Drury J.C. held their annual gathering on Wednesday last week, and it was a success, there being a good attendance. The races were run the reverse way round this year, and although the track was in a very rough state, no accidents took place. The special feature of the meeting was the success of the local-owned and trained horse Freemount, who easily beat the favourite Kola Nip in the Cup and Flying Handicap. Mr C. O'Connor had charge of the flag, but was not quite so successful with it as he is with the barrier. About 15 bookmakers paid £2 for the privilege to do business, and were well patronised, but did not profit much, as five out of six first favourites got home. The Maiden Plate brought out a field of five runners, and Philosopher was sorted out of the good thing, 2 to 1 being laid on. Porangi Potae's son never gave his backers an anxious moment, winning, hard held, in 1min 23sec. Kaitangata and Ngare filled the places.

Five again faced the starter in the Cup, and Kola Nip was selected as favourite at 6 to 4 on. Freemount getting well away, led all the way and romped home an easy winner. There was a good battle between Kola Nip and Bowman for second place. Reminder and Philosopher also started. The latter bled at the nose. The race was run in the good time of 2min 15 3/5sec.

In the Pony Race Ngare (with the

rogue's badge on) bolted twice round the course before he could be pulled up. After this the public laid 3 to 1 on freely on Present, and there was little interest taken in the race, as the favourite cantered in, Ngare second and Poppy third. Waipiapi also started.

Kola Nip, although meeting a fresh sprinter in Klondyke, was made favourite at 6 to 4 on, even money Klondyke, 10 to 1 Good Faith. The favourite won by three lengths in 1min 19sec.

Four was the main for the Welter Handicap, and 4 and 5 to 1 was laid on Freemount, for whom the race only proved an exercise gallop. Kaitangata and Present were the placed horses, with Reminder beaten off. Time, 1min 35sec.

Freemount, although just competing in the last race, was made an even-money chance, 6 to 4 Kola Nip, 3 to 1 Klondyke, 8 to 1 Bowman, 20 to 1 Ngare. The race proved an easier win than the two previous ones. Although carrying a 10lb penalty Freedom's son jumped away to the front and led all the way and put up the fair time of 1min 5sec on this rough course. The gelding is a fair size and has pace, seems a stayer, and should make a good hurdler.

**ORIGIN OF THE HORSE.**

At the last annual dinner of the New York Farmers' Club, Prof. Henry Fairfield Osborn was the star speaker, and his subject was the "Origin and History of the Horse." The horse is praised by Professor Osborn as "the noblest of the domesticated animals," that has proved to man "the most useful of the domesticated animals, not barring the cow." In some parts of Asia the people have subsisted for "hundreds, if not thousands of years, upon the products of the horse including the milk of the mare, which, of course, is prepared in the form of kumyss." The original North American horse became extinct a long time before the discovery of the country by the Spaniards. Professor O. C. Marsh and his assistant, Oscar Harger, of Yale University, were the first to recognise in the rocks of Fort Bridger, Wyo., the earliest stages in the development of the horse. The dawn horse, or Eohippus, was a little animal about twelve inches in height. "The foundations of some of the modern characteristics of the horse were probably laid down about 3,000,000 of years ago, because that is approximately the time when the little Eohippus lived. Now, when we deal in millions of years, everyone is always a little surprised, and I might say very briefly and parenthetically why we give this as the approximate period. It depends entirely upon the average rate of the deposition of rock, sandstone, and gravel in the mouths of streams of considerable size. In the delta of the Mississippi, for instance, the average rate of deposition in the gulf near land is about one foot in a hundred years; very near it is more rapid, and farther out less rapid. One foot in a hundred years is a rather rapid rate of deposition. There are so many thousands of feet of rock which have been deposited above the remains of this ancestral horse that we calculate it would require at least 3,000,000 of years for their deposit." Professor Osborn prudently adds: "You must take these estimates with a pinch of salt." The caution of the professor recalls the admonition of Professor J. D. Stillman, who wrote for Governor Leland Stanford the text of "The Horse in Motion." He contended that there were no proofs of an organ developed by imperceptible degrees where none existed before. "This whole question of evolution is speculation when carried beyond proof; and science when it crosses the vital boundary line, is lost in speculation." The oldest written account of the horse is found in the Book of Job, and while science has made wonderful progress, knowledge of the "nature of that force by which one form becomes altered or modified by the altered conditions of its life has made no progress since the days of Job."

Professor Osborn briefly refers to the distribution of the horse on the American continent. Prior to the extinction "the most superb natural breeds of horses, varying from a size far smaller than the smallest modern Shetland to a size far exceeding that of the largest modern Percheron, were developed by natural processes of breeding and selection of this continent. It seems like a tragedy that at this climax of evolution, which Nature has been slowly shaping through such a long period of time, horse life in America should have come to a complete and absolute close with the appearance of the great cap from the north, and with the onset of the so-called glacial period."

Professor Osborn, however, states that he is not satisfied that this widespread extinction was entirely caused by the ice age. Like Professor Stillman, he hesitates about confounding science with speculation.

**SUMMER CARE OF THE COLTS.**

Too often the colts are turned out in the spring and allowed to run throughout the summer without any attention from the owner. Many a good colt has been injured or ruined in this way when a little timely attention would have saved him for years of usefulness. The colts need to be grown right along from the start without any check. If the pasture is not sufficient during the heat of the summer they should be given a supplementary ration of some kind, and if the pastures are very short, it will pay to keep them near the barn and give them a feed of hay as well as grain to keep them growing continuously. The time to make size and substance in a colt and to round him out into a perfect horse is during the period of his growth, and if he is not pushed along properly at this time the mistake cannot be fully remedied by subsequent good care and feed. Another point about which the colts need attention at this time of the year is in the growth of their feet. Some colts that have good feet will wear them off too closely and become footsore on pasture. Others will not wear them off rapidly enough to keep them in good shape, and their toes will grow out too long and need a little trimming. There will not be many cases of this kind, but it will pay to look after those which occur. Then sometimes the fences are allowed to get a little out of condition around the pasture, and, through no fault of their own, the colts become breachy. The feed is perhaps poor in the field, and in reaching over the fence to get feed outside they either push the fence over or perhaps become injured upon it. Especially about the gate and next to the shade trees at the edge of the field the fence should be made proof against accidents of this kind, and the better the fence is about the pasture, the less likely the colt will be to crowd or jump the fence. Another important thing is to see to it that the colts have access to plenty of good water. Sometimes pastures which provide plenty of wholesome water during the spring or rainy seasons will not do so during the dry summer months. The colts should not be allowed to drink stagnant water any more than any other stock. It will not pay to compel them to do so.

**NOMINATIONS, HANDICAPS AND ACCEPTANCES.**

**NOMINATIONS.**

**TAKAPUNA JOCKEY CLUB'S SUMMER MEETING.**

TAKAPUNA CUP.—Geordie, Syren, Agrapus, Haeremal, Bully, Foremost, Waipuna, Baltimore, Akarana, Master Delaval, Dolores, Apologue, Leonator, Landlock, Paritutu, Nervine, Scotty, Delania, Loch Erne, Zuleika.

JOCKEY CLUB HANDICAP.—Geordie, Syren, Tito, Agrapus, Haeremal, Bully, Foremost, Claremont, Waipuna, Henry Havelock, Baltimore, Soultmaid, Akarana, Master Delaval, Apologue, Leonator, Landlock, Paritutu, Nervine, Scotty, Delania, Loch Erne, Lady Annie, Zuleika.

RANGITOTO STEEPLECHASE.—Stepney, Tut, Pierre, Loch Fyne, St. Harp.

**TURF RESULTS.**

**AUCKLAND RACING CLUB'S SUMMER MEETING.**

Weather fine and the attendance a record, the going being fast.

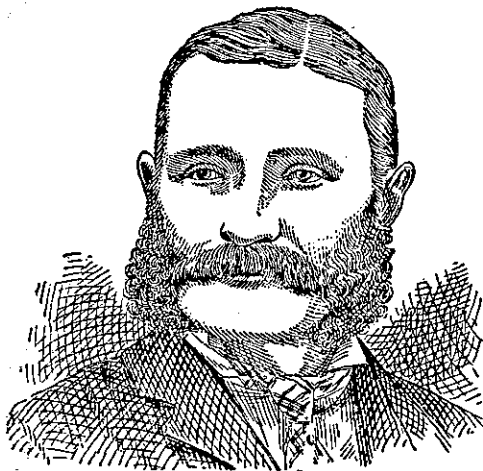
THE TRIAL HANDICAP of 110sovs. Seven furlongs.—Mr. T. Cunningham's br m Lucrece, 5yrs, by Sout—Postmistress, 7.11 (Gray), 1; Mr. A. Telfer's br g Nervine, 5yrs, 8.3 (Ryan), 2; Mr. E. W. Alison's b h Foremost, 4yrs, 6.13, including 2lb over (S. Lindsay), 3. Other starters: Landlock 9.0, Le Beau 7.9, Baltimore 7.6, Aristocrat 7.4, Kola Nip 6.13 1/2lb (including 3 1/2lb over), Kilderkin 8.8. Won by a length. Time, 1min 28 4/5sec. Dividends, £4 19s and £1 11s.

THE GREAT NORTHERN FOAL STAKES of 500sovs. Six furlongs.—Sir George Clifford's b c Glenculloch, by Clanranald—Madowia, 8.10 (McCluskie), 1; Mr. T. H. Lowry's ch c Downfall, 8.10 (Davis), 2; Mr. F. W. Arnold's ch f Cadence, 8.5 (Ryan), 3. Other starters: Moriarty 8.7. Won by three lengths. Time, 1min 16sec. Dividend, £1 6s.

THE AUCKLAND CUP (HANDICAP) of 1500sovs; second horse to receive 200sovs, and third horse 100sovs out of the stake. Two miles.—Mrs. M. Coombe's b g Master Delaval, 4yrs, by Seaton Delaval—Campania, 7.6 (Buchanan), 1; Mr. D. O'Brien's b h Grenade, 5yrs, 6.13, including 2lb over (Scott), 2; Mr. J. George's b g Paritutu, aged, 8.2 (Jones), and Messrs. R. and R. Duder's b g Akarana, 5yrs, 6.13 (Holmes) dead heat, 3. Also ran: Armistice 8.6, Scotty 8.1, Ghoorka 8.0, including 5lb penalty, Apologue 7.12, Ellerton 7.1, Rustique 6.13. Volume 6.7. Won by nearly two lengths. Time, 3min 28 3/5sec. Dividends, £4 18s and £5 6s.

THE GRAFTON HURDLE RACE (HANDICAP) of 200sovs. Two miles.—Mr. C. Weal's b m Lady Hune, 6yrs, by Cuirassier—Hune, 9.6 (Julian), 1; Mr. D. Moraghan's ch g Silica, 6yrs, 9.10 (Speakman), 2; Mr. A. Baird's blk m Dolores, aged, 10.8 (Burns), 3. Also ran: Hautapu 11.10, Commonwealth 9.6, Cannongate 9.6, Aqua Regia 9.2. Won easily. Time, 3min 47 2/5sec. Dividends, £3 5s and £2 12s.

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