

in winning the Oakleigh Plate on Saturday.

Although the five Canterbury horses, Stepdancer, Eden, Seal Rock, Lapland, and Blythmaid are among the lightly-weighted division in the Wanganui Cup, I do not think they will be found amongst the starters. Fancy Stepdancer only receiving 7lb from a high-class performer like King Billy, and being within a pound or two of Ghoorka, Polyanthus and Bourrasque.

The Yaldhurst Stable looks like being strongly represented during the autumn. Munjeet, Isolt, Seal Rock, Eden, Count Witte, Goldbraid and Astolat are in regular work.

The form shown by Cross Battery in the St. Alban's Handicap on the second day of the Summer Meeting did not please the stewards. After hearing R. W. King's version of what happened they decided to caution him as to his future riding.

Three jumpers,—Eurus, John Peel and Deerslayer—have joined the active brigade at Riccarton.

Several offers were made for Aeolus after the son of Euroclydon won the Port Handicap, but his owner, A. Peters, did not feel disposed to do business. Aeolus has gone back, but providing he keeps sound should win again soon.

OTAGO.

DUNEDIN, Feb. 20.

The Tuapeka County Jockey Club held their annual meeting last week, and raced for the first time on their new course, which is laid out on the private property recently acquired by them. The new track is a distinct improvement on the old course, and when time has settled it down, and one or two further improvements have been made, the meetings held there should win a fair amount of patronage from owners and public.

The splendid results which attended the North Otago Jockey Club's efforts to cater for owners of two-year-olds has naturally induced that body to retain the juvenile events on its programme, and next spring the Stepniak Stakes of 200sovs will come up for decision for the second time. Colts will be required to carry 8st, geldings 7st 11lb, and fillies 7st 9lb. The subscription is to be five sovs. each for starters.

The Allandale Stock Farm intends holding a sale on the up-to-date American principle, by which horses are sent against the watch with their prospective buyers looking on at the trial.

The Stepniak—Ambush filly Beresina has proved a bargain at the price paid for her by Messrs. Price and Nettlefold, when they paid something between one and two centuries to Mr. G. G. Stead. Since she was taken across to Australia with Machine Gun she has become badly affected in the respiratory organs, but that she can go fast is evidenced by her win on Saturday last, when she pulled off the Oakleigh Plate in a field of 19. There is a yearling brother to Beresina in D. J. Price's stables.

Some of the Christchurch trainers who are at Wingatui with teams of horses, experienced a good deal of trouble and bother in getting South. Transport accommodation was difficult to procure, and horses in the same stable had to travel by different trains; others had to be brought down some days before it was absolutely necessary. When it is remembered that several trainers have horses in active commission which are not engaged at our own meeting, the inconvenience of a lengthy absence is no small item. Owing to the impossibility of getting the train, it was intended to bring Cross Battery, Sea King, and Wild Cat by boat, but their trainers took advantage of a special which came from Christchurch on Saturday night and reached here early on Sunday morning. The horses were stabled in town on the day and night of their arrival, and shipped to Wingatui on Monday morning. Having to go through this does not tend to make the course popular with trainers, and in future it would be advisable for the club to endeavour to make some arrangements with the railway authorities which would facilitate the transport of horses.

HAWKE'S BAY.

NAPIER, Feb. 20.

One day last week J. Webster left Hastings with Double or Quits and a half-brother by Wonderland to Mystification, for the purpose of taking them to their owner's place at Dan-

nevirke, where the pair will be treated to a holiday. Land O'Nod will be brought back by Webster, and the gelding will be put through a course of studies by Gooseman. The cognomen of Illustrious has been claimed for the rising three-year-old gelding by Renown out of Barbelles. The youngster is the joint property of Messrs McVay and Gooseman. W. Stewart, who is at present in the employ of J. Rae, of Auckland, succeeds J. Webster as head lad at R. Gooseman's establishment. Webster takes over the charge of Mr. H. Gaisford's team early next month. The Mahutonga by San Fran is being put through the first stage of his education by J. Munn, at Hastings.

A younger full brother to Flotilla is being handled in his birth place, Temahanga Station.

Possibility's coming two-year-old full sister has been christened No Trumps. Kaharana has joined Geo. Collelo's team.

TARANAKI.

NEW PLYMOUTH, Feb. 20.

The Egmont Racing Club held its summer meeting on Wednesday and Thursday last. The weather on the opening day was unpleasant, rain falling at intervals during the afternoon. On the second day, however, the weather was fine and some very interesting racing was witnessed. Speculation was fairly brisk, the total put through the machine on the two days amounting to £12,725 as against £13,648 last year. The club have recently purchased a totalisator similar to that which the Manawatu Club lately installed, and twenty assistants were employed to work the machine. Mr. O'Connor's starting of the different events was excellent, although he had some fairly large fields to despatch. Only one enquiry was held during the meeting, which was in connection with Rookby's running in the Hurdle Race on the first day, but after hearing evidence from the jockeys, the stewards accepted the explanation given as satisfactory. There were one or two other instances which might have attracted the attention of the stewards, but no action was taken. There was an impression, however, that all the horses which competed at the meeting were not triers on both days.

In the opening event Ballarat was the favourite selection, and the mare had no difficulty in winning under her comparatively light impost. The much-boomed Pearlle was heavily supported in the Mere Mere Hack Flat, but could only manage to get second to J. B. Williamson's Engraver, who paid the good price of £6 4s. The same owner annexed the Whareroa Hurdles with the assistance of Aqua Regia.

Makikihi was the only withdrawal from the Cup, nine horses facing the barrier. From a good despatch, the first to show out was Pearl Necklet, who was still in the lead passing the stand, Polycaste lying second and Star Rose last. The positions were practically unchanged till entering the straight, where five horses raced abreast for some distance, until Marguerite shot out and won fairly easily by a length and a-half. Star Rose finished about two lengths behind the field.

The Produce Stakes was reduced to a field of three, but provided an interesting race. The winner turned up in Envoy, by Musketry—Squib, the least-fancied candidate, and paid a dividend of £4 17s.

Kuku was made a strong order for the Hawera Welter, in which race Glenullin and Rustique, after competing in the Flying, were again saddled up, the latter running a much better race than he did in his previous attempt. The gelding made a splendid run in the straight, but could not manage to head Kuku.

A field of nineteen lined up at the barrier for the final event, the Wai-papa Hack. Climax (a quiet paddock tip) scored rather comfortably at the finish, and paid the decent dividend of £5 11s.

In the opening event on the second day, Kitchenmaid, who acted as runner up to Ballarat the previous day, got a good start, and was never headed, although Cyrene made a bold bid for victory in the last hundred yards.

The Inaha Hack, the second race on the programme, provided food for a considerable amount of comment. After considerable delay at the post, caused by the usual performance of Kaimere, the field were eventually despatched to a good start. The race was won by Waitapu, who scored rather easily, with Seaman second and White Lie third. On returning

to scale the first and third horses failed to draw the weight, and the race was awarded to Seaman the second horse, the second money going to Highden, who was placed fourth. As no horse was placed third, the money was added to the first stakes. It is difficult, however, to understand how a horse which has weighed out correctly can fail to weigh in correctly, without losing or adding to the weight. Prior to the start of this race Stayboy took charge of his rider and galloped three times round the course, eventually being pulled up by Edgar Russell, which caused a cheer from the spectators.

The next event was the Eltham Hurdles. Aqua Regia and Catapult were the only starters. The former won the Hurdles on the previous day (run over the same distance) and Catapult ran last all the way. But in this event Catapult won comfortably in 2 1-5sec faster time than the race was run the previous day, and for a field of two paid the splendid dividend of £3 2s.

Polycaste, on her running the first day, was made favourite for the Atkinson Memorial Stakes, but the mare was never in the hunt, the winner turning up in Glenullin, who was first away and never headed, winning comfortably and paying £7 8s. On the previous day the Lochiel horse ran badly in each of his two races, and consequently very few people fancied his chance. After the first day's racing the horse was handed over to the care of K. Heaton, the Auckland trainer.

Although a field of fourteen contested the Hack Scurry, the public would have nothing but Moscow, who ran home an easy winner.

In the final event of the programme the disappointing Pearlle was backed as if she could not possibly lose, but the mare could only get a bad second to Fishermid. Pearlle has yet to demonstrate that she can successfully negotiate six furlongs.

C. Jenkins was the most successful rider at the meeting, with five wins,

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Excursion Tickets for Pukekohe and Kirikiriroa will not be available by 10 a.m. express trains on 2nd March.

For further particulars see posters.

BY ORDER.

G. Price coming next with four. The excellent finishes in many of the events reflected great credit on the handicapper, Mr. Geo. Morse.

WANGANUI.

WANGANUI, February 20.

Local punters had a very good innings at Egmont last week, Marguerite, Pawa, Kuku and the locally-owned Fishermid being very heavily backed here.

Mr. J. Bull's hurdler Mahoe won the double, Cup and Bracelet, at the recent Kariol races. This horse should rank amongst the best hurdlers this season.

Marguerite and Delamere are being taken freely in doubles for the coming Wanganui meeting.

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