

Also started: Glenora 8.5, Manoeuvre 7.12, Merrimanu 7.8, Dr. Quest 7.6, La Annie 7.4.  
Time, 58sec. Dividends, £1 15s 6d and 17s.

FEBRUARY TROT HANDICAP. One mile.

Mr. F. H. Ridder's br h Specialist, 5yrs, by Specification—Bonnie Vein, 1sec (Hamilton) ..... 1  
Mr. W. MacFarlane's b m Mint, 6yrs, scratch (Orange) ..... 2  
Mr. S. Jones' b f Miss Wilson, 4yrs, 4sec (Chisnell) ..... 3  
Also started: Robex 7sec, Waitekauri 9sec, Rosebud 9sec, Stranger 11sec, Silver Girl 11sec.  
Time, 2min 21sec. Dividends, £7 8s and 7s 6d.

DASH TROT HANDICAP. One mile.

Mr. P. Williams' b g Ballot, aged, by Electioneer—Eos, 13sec (Duncan) ..... 1  
Mr. S. Tanners' blk m Olive, aged, 13sec (Tanner) ..... 2  
Mr. H. Stanley's b m Princess Ema, 4yrs, 2sec (Hird) ..... 3  
Also started: Specialist 4sec behind scratch (including 4sec penalty), Colenso 10sec, Macquarrie 12sec, Empress 15sec, Bert 16sec, Farewell II. 18sec.  
Time, 2min 39sec. Dividends, £2 12s 6d and £1 1s 6d.

## INTER-PROVINCIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

### CANTERBURY.

CHRISTCHURCH, February 27.

Handicaps for the Great Easter and Great Autumn Handicaps are not due until March 8, but they will probably not appear until after the Wanganui meeting is over.

The inclusion of so many horses entered for the two big Easter handicaps at Riccarton among the nominations for the Easter Handicap at Auckland has somewhat puzzled backers. It is very seldom so many horses are entered for events run at Riccarton and Ellerslie at the same time of the year as is the case this year.

The result of the Dunedin Cup came as a surprise to Christchurch backers, who went solidly for Cross Battery, and the winner, Stepdancer, had few supporters, while Lapland was also backed to some extent. This is the second year in succession that Stepdancer has won the Dunedin Cup. A year ago the Stepniak mare won easily with 7st 8lb, Thunderer (7st 9lb) being second, and Notus (7st 10lb) third. At the Canterbury summer meeting Stepdancer ran very poorly, but at Wingatui she was evidently in a galloping humour, and appears to have won comfortably from the favourite.

It is really surprising the way such a large number of backers get on to a good thing. Men who very seldom back horses put the money up when it became whispered round town on Saturday last that a niddy named Lupulite (pretty name, isn't it?) was something approaching a moral for the Warrington Hack Handicap. The good thing won, and backers were quite pleased with themselves over receiving a £4 2s dividend. They did not expect more than half that amount.

Mr. J. F. Buchanan's horses are in splendid form just now. Buccleuch, Fireiron and Amboise each won a race on the second day at Dunedin, while Amboise scored another win on Saturday. W. Pine deserves credit for the way he has brought the stable's representatives to the fore in big races. In Buccleuch he has some excellent material to work on.

During the short period he was at the stud the English-bred horse Benzoin produced some good stock, Buccleuch and Balsam being two good ones. Benzoin was a smart performer up to six furlongs, and to-day Buccleuch is one of the best in the colony over the same distance.

The defeat of Glenculloch in the Dunedin Champagne Stakes clearly proves that this colt is not a top-notch. Bonny Glen, who beat the Clanranald colt, has now won the two races he has started in. He is probably a good one. The pair will have another opportunity of meeting again before the season closes. I should not be at all surprised to see the Stepniak—Crest colt again prevail.

The Chokebore stable had no luck at all at Dunedin, Signalman, De Witte, Golden Cairn and Cocksshell all getting well beaten in their races. As usual, Signalman failed to give his backers a run for their money, and they must be getting pretty tired of seeing their money continually left at the post.

Tahu, by Good-bye—Signal, is not as good as some people thought. After running well in two races at the

C.J.C. summer meeting he was taken to Dunedin and heavily supported for the races he started in, but he failed to run into a place in moderate company.

It is raining to-day, which is something sensational for Canterbury. Trainers have had to contend with hard tracks for some months past, and a few days' rain would make horse-owners and trainers almost stand on their heads.

The Akaroa County races take place on March 5, and will give racegoers in Christchurch an opportunity of spending a pleasant day in the country. Entries are good and the quality is better represented than is usual at county gatherings.

I had expected to see Aeolus in the Great Easter Handicap, but his owner has preferred to enter him for the big Easter Handicap at Auckland. After seeing this son of Euroclydon run at Riccarton I am convinced that he will win a big race. He is one of the gamest finishers I have ever seen.

The Hawke's Bay Stakes this year should be one of the best races on record. Since Glenculloch's defeat in the Dunedin Champagne Stakes, the Northern event bears a more open aspect. With Eona, Downfall, Elevation, Finery, Glenculloch, and Count Witte in the race, Hawke's Bay sportsmen should see an exciting contest. I know that Count Witte (Menschikoff—Problem) is a smart youngster, but he will need to be a really good one to be able to beat the tried two-year-olds.

Stepdancer has 7st in the Wanganui Cup, but the conditions of the race give the handicapper power to rehandicap any winner of the race of the value of 100sovs, and it is quite likely the Stepniak mare will be raised a few pounds. Stepdancer has run two good races in the New Zealand Cup, and being in good form at present may go for the Wanganui Cup.

### WANGANUI.

WANGANUI, February 26.

Frank Moore now works his horses on his private track at Tayforth. All going well Armistice and Fontenoy will be started in the Cup here. Harry Jackson has these two horses looking very well at present.

Walter Raynor has got Fishermid in fine form at present, and this mare should score a win or two very soon now for her popular trainer.

Horses in Tilley's Fordell stable are reported to be showing first-class form, and Apa and Delamere have been taken very freely for the Cup and Flying.

The Lark and Polycaste should be in capital nick by Cup time, judging by their Egmont running.

St. Joe had to be eased in his work a week or so ago, but is now doing very solid work.

Arc Light was taken through to Woodville on Monday, but never got placed either in the Cup or Autumn Handicap.

Geo. Laing took Westward through also on Monday, but the Sou-wester gelding could only get a second in a poor field.

Ballarat's half-sister Ancycle, by Addington—Brown Spec, has been sold to a patron of Mr. W. Davies' stable.

Waihuku is now in T. Wilson's stable at Bulls.

Achilles was allotted 10st 6in in the Wanganui Cup, and not 10st 7lb as most papers reported. However, he was scratched on Thursday, as was generally expected here would be the case. However, Rosser's stable have two good ones left to represent them in Marguerite and Ghoorka.

The Eltham "Argus" had the following in their sporting columns the day of the Egmont meeting:—"We are not giving any tips on the events. The fact is, it is so hard to get the necessary information on the matter. To give reliable tips a writer requires to know which horses are 'after it,' which are running stiff in preparation for further events, which horses the jockeys are backing, and a whole lot of other information which is not available to the outsider."

Te Kainui (Tasman—Capucine) was sold the first day of the Woodville races to Mr. F. Pelling, in whose interest he ran the second day.

Ryves Webb has the local track and ornamental grounds looking a perfect picture at present, and those who visit us at Cup time should find the picturesque Wanganui racecourse looking better than it has ever done before.

Toa Tuhi proved a little gold mine for local punters on the second day of the Woodville meeting, and pencilers had a very bad run. This gelding was bought by Mr. J. Lambess, of Foxton, after the Scurry, for 141 guineas.

### OTAGO.

DUNEDIN, Feb. 27.

The Dunedin Jockey Club held their Cup Meeting last week, and despite the fact that the weather at the opening was unfavourable the gathering was both a sporting and financial success. The totalisator figures ran out to 2291, or 1793½ above last year.

Stepdancer won the Dunedin Cup in decisive fashion, and recorded her second win in the race.

The Club made a profit of about £640 over the meeting.

Royal Shell, who paid £19 16/ when he scored in the second day's hurdle event, was picked in Auckland for something in the neighbourhood of £20. At that time he was suffering from an enlarged knee, which was the result of hitting a fence; but he is now apparently as sound as a bell.

Golden Cairn was produced once only last week, when he was made a good favourite for the Publican's Handicap, but ran disappointingly, as he was never dangerous in the run home. On his form at the Mid-Summer Meeting when he paced it with Buccleuch in the Craven Plate, and also ran well in the Middle Park Plate. Golden Cairn looked to have a good chance in the Publican's, but his supporters had to be content with an also started, and not a heap of gold.

Two winners at Wingatui last week claim close relationship to a couple of horses who have been filling the public eye lately, as Mr. J. F. Buchanan's filly Amboise is a sister to Marguerite, and Mr. Murray Hobbs' filly Aimee Soult is a sister to Grenadier, one of the ruling favourites for the Newmarket Handicap.

The recently-concluded Dunedin Cup Meeting was remarkable for the fact that it attracted an unusual number of visitors. Canterbury sports are generally found to be content with their own meetings, and it is to be hoped that their presence last week augurs well for the Wingatui gatherings of the future.

The downfall of Glenculloch in the D.J.C. Champagne Stakes was a bit of a facer to punters, but the colt's defeat did not come altogether as a great surprise, as it was whispered about that he had contracted a cold. He galloped with his customary dash for about four furlongs, but after crowning the hill it was noticeable that his stride was losing its length, and Bonnie Glen had him well beaten over a furlong from home. Nine stone ten is a goodly burden for a two-year-old to carry at Wingatui when the going is a bit loose and the load was not made any lighter by the fact that about 3st. of it was dead weight.

The form displayed by Bonnie Glen at Riccarton and Wingatui suggests that his defeat of Glenculloch was far from being a fluke, and further that the Clanranald colt was not altogether disgraced, as it is quite possible that the Stepniak colt is a bit out of the common.

The feature of the opening day of the Tahuna Park Trotting Club's meeting was the splendid race which was furnished by the field which went out to contest the High-Class Handicap, and it is quite possible that the falling through of the proposed sweepstakes which was struck out because it failed to fill was a blessing in disguise, as one could not wish to witness a better battle on a track than that which the different horses put up before the winning number was hoisted. The horses which furnish the best races are those who have about reached the speed limit, and there is generally very little between their records, and consequently they race in close order or should do so if all other things are equal; and these are the races which give the public good value for their money. Although by no means forcing the pace Fusee was always disputing the lead, his driver had the inside berth and exercised a good deal of generalship in order to retain it. More than once he was on the grass with one of his wheels, and Price undoubtedly had to drive a great race before getting his number on top, and the merit of his reinmanship is all the more pronounced because he had such clever manipulators of the ribbons as M. E. Albaugh, C. Kerr, M. Allan and M. Edward to keep at bay.

Buccleuch was considered good goods for the Anniversary Handicap, but his chance was wrecked by the suicidal pace set in the early stages of the race. The going along the back stretch was on the heavy side, and it was an error of judgment to allow him to run with Red Gauntlet over the first three furlongs with 7.9 on his back. The first quarter was

cut in 24secs, which was an impossible pace to set out over a mile journey, and it was not astonishing to find both stopping to nothing in the run home. When stripped at the Mid-Summer Meeting Buccleuch was very big and lusty. In his Wingatui Campaign he was improving in appearance with each race, and although defeated on the last day looked a better horse than at any other time during the week. He is evidently a gross doer, and the sort that English trainers would work in light clothing and be rarely given a stripped gallop.

Cross Battery carried the coin and confidence of the public each time she started at Wingatui, but her supporters had to be content with a loss each time they staked their bullion. She ran a fairly good race in the Cup, on what appears to have been a remarkably light preparation, as she arrived in Dunedin on the Sunday before the race, and was very indulgently treated in the interim. In the Cup she ran a good mare under the circumstances, but was not unduly punished when Stepdancer had the race in her keeping. Her run over 12 furlongs, however, was evidently a severe tax on her powers, as she gave an inglorious display in the Wingatui Handicap, and was never dangerous in the race. Wairakel ran some great races on very little work, but the majority of horses have to gallop on the track if they are wanted to win under silk; and before Cross Battery can be given a chance at Riccarton she will have to do something on the track calculated to justify her being supported.

The judging at Wingatui last week was not an unqualified success. On the second day Gapon, who was second last in his race, was placed third, and in the Flying Handicap decided on the third day, many in a good position to see the finish were positive that Fire-iron was entitled to the winning verdict instead of Zetland. The press stand is placed on an awkward angle, but the writer was strongly inclined to agree with the racing experts who held that Fire-iron was the winner, as when a horse is running wide on the track he has to make a good win before he really looks to be first past the post. In a close thing it is practically impossible to give a fair opinion, but every one whom the writer queried, and whose names if mentioned would be a sufficient guarantee that they knew what they were talking about, were positive that Fire-iron won by anything from half a length to a length.

### TARANAKI.

Very fair acceptances have been received for the forthcoming meeting of the Taranaki Jockey Club, and on the whole compare very favourably with those of last year.

Paritutu is the ruling favourite for the Cup, and the Castor gelding certainly appears to have a great chance with 6lb less than he won with last year.

The club will open a double machine on the third and fourth races on each day of the meeting.

The Metropolitan Committee of the T.J.C. met last week, when gentleman rider's certificates were granted to F. W. Webb and F. Barson, and a jockey's license to L. W. Graham and R. McNamara.

### THE BETTING MARKET.

Messrs. Ross and Bradshaw (Wellington) report the following business on the

WANGANUI CUP AND FLYING.  
600 to 4—Star Rose and St. Claimer  
600 to 3—Bourrasque and Medalist  
300 to 6—Eden and Full Rate  
300 to 6—Marguerite and Achilles  
300 to 6—King Billy and Delamere  
300 to 2—Rifemaid and Contender  
C.J.C. GREAT EASTER AND AUTUMN.

1000 to 4—Replete and Stepdancer  
1000 to 2—Aimee Soult and Lapland  
600 to 4—Cross Battery and Grenade  
500 to 5—Buccleuch and Marguerite  
500 to 4—Sir Tristram and Zimmerman  
500 to 1—Helen Portland and Notus

Messrs. Barnett and Grant (Christchurch) report the following business on the

WANGANUI CUP AND FLYING HANDICAP.  
500 to 25—Marguerite and Delamere  
500 to 17—Ghoorka and Delamere  
400 to 13—Marguerite and Full Rate  
400 to 12—Montigo and Full Rate  
GREAT EASTER AND GREAT AUTUMN HANDICAPS.

600 to 1—Harvest and Chryseis  
500 to 5—Fireiron and Cross Battery  
500 to 5—Buccleuch and Eden  
500 to 2½—Aimee Soult and Stepdancer  
500 to 2½—Apollodoris and Signalman  
500 to 2—Buccleuch and Truce  
500 to 1—Astracah and Zetland