

The well-known cross-country horseman, Wilson, will go across to Melbourne to ride Swimmer in the V.R.C. Grand National Steeplechase. We should all like to hear of a win for the Auckland combination.

The pony Frederick has returned from Sydney, where it is said an offer of 400 guineas was refused for him.

The death is announced in Sydney of the stallion Sweet William, whose defeat in the Melbourne Cup of 1882 was something of a sensation.

Descendants of Phoebus Apollo continue to win races in Westralia. Wheelara, who was got by the defunct Wellington Park sire from Chrysolite, put down ten opponents in the River Handicap at the W.A.T.C. Autumn Meeting, while Prophecy, who is by the same stallion from Problem, won the Osborne Stakes at the same meeting. Both winners first saw the light in Auckland.

The death of the crack stallion Sir Foote was due to a microbic disease which brought on septic poisoning.

Lady Annie has been a profitable purchase for Sir George Clifford. Although only bought for the stud she has won three races in succession for the popular sportsman.

Volume's St. Leger win on Saturday was achieved in the slowest time on record owing to the horses cantering for half a mile. It looks as though Jenkins really won the race through catching the other riders napping.

Mr. O'Connor will officiate at the starting barrier at the Avondale meeting.

Mr. W. Davies gave 530 guineas for the hurdler Nestator on Friday last. The gelding has gone into Macman-einin's stable.

Excellent nominations have been received for the Takapuna meeting next month, and the fixture promises to be a big success. Handicaps for the first day's events and the Steeplechase are due on May 3.

The pony Imprimis showed a fine turn of speed in the Shorts Handicap at Alexandra Park, and should win again before long.

The distance of the Maiden Welter, to be run on the opening day of the A.R.C. winter meeting, has been altered from seven to five furlongs.

According to news from Paris the abolition in France of the bookmaker, has not proved so satisfactory as was expected, and it is quite possible that "the ring" may be revived there.

The following nominations have been received for the Hawke's Bay Cup:—Wirral, Sir Tristram, Volume, King's Lynn, Grand Slam, Barca, Mystification, Lady Warwick, Chatterer, Contender, Clanchattan, Lady Annie, Marguerite, Kuku, Bourresque, Intelligence, St. Joe, Kairoma, Flamen, Firstfoot, Rendrock, Aberration, Oasis, Te Hauke, Polyanthus, Mecca, Riflemaid, Sandix, Helen Portland, Fontenoy, Gazeley, Boomerang, King Billy.

"Punter" writes:—Despite the heavy penalties from time to time imposed on those owners and riders who incur the displeasure of the stewards, the impunity with which some bare-faced riders run "crook" races is positively astounding. Take the case of an event run at a meeting in Auckland last week. In a field of six a colt, which, for the sake of argument, might be called a son of Roguery—Stiff'un, went out second favourite for a sprint event. The colt got away badly, but entering the straight had improved his position to second place. The leader, however, had too big a pull on the field, and realising the impossibility of wearing him down, the jockey who had the mount on the son of Roguery retired to a rear position. Now the backers of that chestnut horse would have been satisfied with second dividend. Had the jockey who steered their fancy ridden his mount out, they would not have been defrauded of their money. As it was, he never even drew the whip. Admittedly he might not have run into first place, but it is an absolute certainty that he could have run second. Crooked running is always crooked running, no matter where the horse finishes.

The autumn meeting of the Auckland Racing Club showed a profit of £600.

A South Australian sportsman who recently returned from a trip to the Continent, says that when in Vienna he was much impressed by the methods employed to prevent any mistakes in connection with the starting. All over the course and in front of the stands are semaphores, connected with electric wires with each other and the different starting points. The moment the starter takes his place he touches an electric button, which shows the figure 1 on all the different semaphores all over the course. This means the horses are then in the starter's hands. The moment he raises the barrier he touches another electric button, which shows the figure 2 all over the course, meaning that a proper start has been effected. Should the jockeys break away before that, they can go 100 yards and be brought to a standstill by seeing the figure 1 instead of 2 on the nearest semaphore. They cannot possibly make a mistake.

The good old English seat seems to have lapsed entirely (says an English paper). Possibly some of our riders are between the two seats, but all save Morny Cannon are more or less infected by American notions. The new generation must ride in the new style. Sloan was possibly the finest exponent of the position; Danny Maher is its latest apostle. There are none of the old school riding, however, who develop the first idea of George Fordham and Chifney, or, rather, shall we say, who can ride with the slack rein, and then finish on the withers. Fordham did this, and Archer was the disciple of the old school as well.

The prominent cross-country rider, A. Nightingall, winner of three Liverpool Grand Nationals, was seriously ill when the last mail left England.

It is not often that a horse carrying 10½lb overweight wins the principal race at a good meeting, but it was under these circumstances that Radiance was successful in the Autumn Handicap at the T.R.C. (Launceston) Easter meeting. The handicapper doubtless felt pleased.

Mr. John Wren, controller of the Melbourne pony tracks, has announced that he will give £3000 for a mile race at the Ascot (unregistered) meeting next November. This is the largest stake ever given in the Commonwealth for a race over the distance. Mr. Wren states that under the new Gaming Act all courses have equal rights, and therefore he expects that registered horses will be allowed to compete.

There died on March 6 (says the London "Sportsman") at the ripe old age of 92 years, at his residence at Fulbourn, close to Newmarket, the well-known animal painter, Mr. J. F. Herring, whose pictures of English farm life were, a generation ago, the delight of the artistic world. He was the son of a former and perhaps better known artist—at least in the racing world—another Mr. J. F. Herring, whose pictures of thoroughbreds are looked on as being the best extant, and they command the highest prices of the particular branch of the artist's work at the present day, being recognised by the well-known signature of "J. F. Herring, sen." Coaching scenes were also a favourite subject of that artist's brush.

The West Australian race clubs are going on with the proposal of having three men to act as handicappers and stipendiary stewards combined. Commenting on the probability, the Victorian writer "Terlinga" says: "I remember an instance in which a gentleman now dead doubled the positions of judge and handicapper. I was, at his invitation, in the box with him at a meeting. The race was a steeplechase. There were 12 runners, but one of them was made an even-money chance. The judge and handicapper was indignant at this. He was quite certain the horse was not too well in. Well, from the last fence that favourite and an outsider came away from the field, one on the stand side and the other near the opposite rails. All the way up the straight the judge was calling out the outsider's name. The two flashed past the post dead level, as far as I could see, but the judge had no doubt as to the winner. Up went the outsider's number. I said, 'How far did he win?' And was told 'a good head.' May be the judge was right, but his sympathies were undoubtedly with the handicapper. How are stipendiary stewards under the West Australian proposals to avoid being biased against owners who criticise the handicappers adversely?"

A funny incident is reported to have occurred at a race meeting held at a town in N.S.W. recently. The rider of one of the winners failed to pull the weight, thereupon the trainer of the winner stepped on to the scales with the jockey, and between them they pulled the beam down to the correct weight. The clerk of the scales was satisfied, and the owner of the second horse not appearing to care, the judge's decision remained undisturbed.

Mr. William Mack, an American company promoter, and Mrs. Ida Ohlmeyer, a pretty widow, were recently married in a stable occupied by two racehorses, at Jersey City. The couple, who were interested in horse-racing, thought it would bring them good luck to be married in the stable, with the horses as witnesses.

#### THE AUCKLAND RACING CLUB.

Owners must not overlook the fact that nominations for the Great Northern Hurdles, of 500sovs., the Great Northern Steeplechase, of 750sovs., and the Winter Steeplechase of 250 sovs., the principal events of the A.R.C. winter meeting, close with Mr. J. F. Hartland to-morrow (Friday) evening, at 9 o'clock.

#### THE WANGANUI JOCKEY CLUB.

Owners are reminded that nominations for all events to be run at the Winter Meeting of the Wanganui Jockey Club close with Mr. William Hall, the secretary, to-morrow (Friday) evening at 9 p.m. The events and payments are as follows:—

Borough Handicap, 1sov. Wanganui Steeplechase, 1sov; Electric Hack Handicap, 1sov; May Hurdles Handicap, 1sov; Kaitoke Hack Hurdles, 1sov; Connolly Handicap, 1sov; Purua Hack Flat Handicap, 1sov; Winter Oats, 1sov; Grandstand Steeplechase, 1sov; Century Hurdles Handicap, 1sov; Balgownie Hack Flat, 1sov; Rata Hack Hurdles, 1sov; Final Steeplechase Handicap, 1sov; Farewell Hack Flat Handicap, 1sov

#### THE MANAWATU MEETING

Fair weather was encountered for the opening day of the Manawatu meeting yesterday, and there was a record attendance.

Count Witte won the Manawatu Stakes by a length from Glenculloch. Elevation was third. The six furlongs were run in 1m. 17s.

The Longburn Handicap was won by Sandix, St. Joe running second, and Grand Slam third. Time, 1m. 59s.

In the Telegraph Stakes Kitchenmaid ran first, Golden Gate second, and Le Beau third. The dividends were £3 13s and £2 2s.

Gauze carried off the Hack Welter, with Pixie second and Moloch third. Dividends, £2 9s and £1 11s.

Lull was successful in the Hokowitu Hurdles.

The Champion Hack was won by Eons, with Swimming Belt second.

## COURSING.

#### THE NORTH N.Z. COURSING CLUB.

The North N.Z. Coursing Club commenced the season on Saturday at the Otahuhu Enclosure, which was in good order. The weather was beautifully fine, being indeed rather warm for coursing, while despite two or three strong counter attractions there was a very fair attendance. As usual Mr. F. W. Coombes was in the judge's chair, while Mr. L. Brennan slipped in his customary capable manner. Mr. C. R. Tapper, the energetic hon. secretary, had a lot of hard work to do, but carried out his duties most efficiently, being ably assisted by Messrs J. Coulson and M. Freney (slip stewards). Mr. J. Tapper (identification steward), Mr. J. Taylor (card steward), and Mr. C. Hannigan (gate steward). The sport all through was of a first class character, some of the trials being very close, and the judge had his work cut out to decide between the dogs.

Two rounds of the Mangere Maiden Stake were run off, and in many cases the favourites were defeated. Possibly one of the best courses in the opening round was that between Lady Rosette and Maroon and Gold. The former led four lengths to a racing hare, and had the best of the early exchanges. The hare would not go to cover, and Maroon and Gold outstaying his opponent, ran up point after point, the kill just winning him the course. Another even trial was that between Gavotte and Pedicure. The former got badly out of slips, and the dog just led her to the hare. Some very smart exchanges followed, and a brilliant kill by Gavotte just got her the verdict. There was very little to choose between Garryclough and Fireman, the former getting his flag by a bare point.

In the first ties an even go was that between Garryclough and Te Aroha Lass. The former led up five lengths, but once the bitch got in she became very busy, not giving her opponent a look in. Just as the daughter of Sandy looked winning, Garryclough dashed in and killing, got his flag. A gruelling course was that between Tim Doolan and Butcher Boy, when the hare would not go to cover for a long time, the latter dog being run to a standstill. That between Taurangarere and Nellie Stewart was a somewhat similar course, a very long string of points being run up before puss escaped.

The particulars were as follows:—  
Mangere Maiden Stake, first dog, £25, second dog £7 10s, two dogs at £4 each, four dogs at £2 each:—

Mr G. Stevens' At Last beat Mr S. Kitchen's Claret.

Mr J. Witheridge's Blue Fire beat Mr J. Elliot's Equilibrate.

Mr J. Smith's Garryclough beat Mr J. Porter's Fireman.

Mr J. Ellery's Te Aroha Lass beat Mr J. Parkes' Wee Kitty.

Mr C. Paddy's Mahutonga beat Mr A. Gordon's Lucerne.

Mr C. Cribb's Maroon and Gold beat Mr M. Taylor's Lady Rosette.

Mr J. Parkes' Tom Mack beat Mr H. Brierly's Parlour Maid.

Mr G. Mills' Waireka beat Mr A. Julian's Tambo.

Mr S. Bright's Tim Doolan beat Mr J. Gillespie's Disowned.

Mr J. Porter's Butcher Boy beat Mr J. Hamer's Gipsy Queen.

Mr J. Witheridge's Nell Stewart beat Mr C. George's Coo-ee.

Mr J. Smith's Taurangarere beat Mr A. J. Searle's Wild Lad.

Mr F. Baker's Eureka beat Mr M. Taylor's Bosun.

Messrs Tapper Brothers' Gavotte beat Mr T. Burgess' Pedicure.

Mr A. D. Wallace's Robin Adair, a bye.

First Ties:—  
Blue Fire beat At Last.  
Garryclough beat Te Aroha Lass.  
Maroon and Gold beat Mahutonga.  
Waireka beat Tom Mack.  
Tim Doolan beat Butcher Boy.  
Taurangarere beat Nell Stewart.  
Eureka beat Robin Adair.  
Gavotte, a bye.

At Dunedin on Saturday, Southern Cross and Master Machree divided the Maiden Stake, while Jack Tracy and Watchful divided the Supplementary Stake.

## TRAINING NOTES.

#### ELLERSLIE.

On Saturday morning a dense fog enveloped the racing tracks, and very little of the work could be seen. Tuesday turned out almost perfect, except that the going was heavy. All the work was done on the grass track, and a number of the intending Avondale competitors worked. Scotty alone did good work in the first 6 of 7 furlongs, but the last few found him out—time 1.35secs. Cavalry jumped the hurdles in good style for a circle. Delania, with Omati to assist in the first part of 7 furlongs, and Celtic the latter part, negotiated the distance in 1.33 4-5secs. Uenuku had all the best of Lord Seaton from the mile post in 1.48 3-5sec. Maheno and another sprinted 5 furlongs, the last half-mile in 50sec (short). Duart spurred 4 furlongs in 53secs. Pearl Necklet over the same track took 57secs. Necktie did a similar task in 52 2-5secs. Carl Rosa had a ten lengths victory over Geordie (in a short mile) in 1.47secs, the latter ran unkindly. St. Syren, who is now in R. Hall's charge, gave a lot of weight away to Hardship, and was defeated in a short spurt. Lady Cressy easily settled Kola Nip in a half-mile run in 54 4-5secs. Paroquet brought Turbine home at the end of 4 furlongs, the latter led at the finish. Haldane was running over Quad-ron at the end of 5 furlongs in 1.8secs. The following also did medium pace work—Nestator, Ben Johnson, Delegate, Lady Hune, Heywood, Inniskillen, Rose Lawn.

After the breakfast interval, Luminous, with Julian in the saddle, had a spin over the hurdles and shaped well. Puhipuhi, who seems on the improve, galloped 6 furlongs. Pohutu was too speedy for his stable mate Apollonaris from the half-mile post in 55 secs. Moberly's brace of Soult's sprinted. Rugarata easily settled Cymri from the 5 furlongs post in 1.8secs, the pair afterwards practised at the barrier. Portlight and Japan galloped together for 4 furlongs, the last 3 in 39 3-5sec, finishing together. Conductor finished half a furlong in front of Sir Gilead over 9 furlongs. Loch Erne had a slight advantage of Te Aroha at the end of a sharp burst over 4 furlongs (short) in 53secs. Manapouri sprinted alone. Claremont and another had a circle together with nothing between them. Landlock finished much better than Bonomiana after schooling over the hurdles. Muthema and a number of others also worked.