

# INTER-PROVINCIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

## CANTERBURY.

**CHRISTCHURCH, December 24.**  
**Stake Hunting—Bonny Glen has Admirers—Boniform and Armet—Bonny Glen's Companion—Medallist in Form—The Chokebore Team—Canterbury Contingent for Dunedin—Death of Pilgrim's Progress.**

During the Christmas and New Year holidays there is very little horse-racing in Canterbury, the few country meetings run without the assistance of the tote, and the trots at Plumpton being the sole attractions for race-goers.

Canterbury horses at this time of year are sent on a stake-hunting expedition to other parts of the Dominion. The best of them find their way to Auckland and Manawatu, while others go overland to the West Coast and Dunedin. With so many horses away things are, as may be imagined, very quiet at Riccarton.

A fair amount of money has been sent to Auckland for investment on Bonny Glen in the Cup. This colt is reported to be very well, and his trainer is quietly confident that he will have the honour of leading in the winner of the big two mile event at Ellerslie. Backers and followers of Yaldhurst Stables have sent money up to Auckland for investment on Boniform and Armet, and from this it may be concluded that this pair will be well worth watching when they face the starter.

Another Riccarton-trained filly in Artillerie is not a bad one. She only went up to Auckland, so the story goes, to keep Bonny Glen company, but it should be remembered that she is fast, and is capable of scoring a win before he returns home. Auckland backers are strongly recommended to keep an eye on Artillerie.

After Medallist's fine form at the Christchurch Racing Club's meeting it was fully expected that he would go near winning the Summer Handicap at Manawatu. The nearest he could get was third, but he is capable of improving on that performance. Those who follow him are likely to get a dividend off him before he returns to Riccarton.

Sister Anne, who is acknowledged to be smart over six furlongs, got badly left in the Palmerston Stakes, but I do not think she had any chance of beating Elevation, who must be put down as the most brilliant performer we have seen in New Zealand since Carbine left us. The Chokebore Lodge team—Sister Anne, Stratagem and De Witte—were hopelessly out of it on the first day at Manawatu. Stratagem showed good form on the second day of the Christchurch meeting, and was coming on at the end of the race. I think she is capable of scoring before returning home. Fire-iron and Buccleugh have both been accepted for in the principal events at Ashhurst. I like Fire-iron somewhat, but Buccleugh, who broke down before the New Zealand Cup meeting, must be taken on trust. He is a great performer up to a mile under any scale of weights. Canterbury's contingent for Dunedin will be a strong one. Cross Battery, St. Joe, Gwendolina, Sir Artegal, Arzib, Leeside, Southern Cross, Idealist, Zetland, All Guns, Pretty Nell, Mythical, Gypsobel and several others are among the acceptances for the first day's events.

The Rakaia Racing Club has received excellent acceptances for its meeting on Boxing Day, and Crispinot, Fancy Work, Mangrove and Bagpipes are among the best-known performers competing.

The well-known sire Pilgrim's Progress, died at his owner's stud farm at Tinwald a few days ago. Pilgrim's Progress, before coming over to New Zealand, sired Abundance in Australia. His best performers sired in New Zealand were Bunyan, Paragon, Golden Way, Prim and Mercy. Mr. E. Gates, along with a general body of horse-owners, will feel the loss of such a promising sire as Pilgrim's Progress.

## OTAGO.

**The Dunedin Meeting—Six Bookmakers Fielding—Bosebloom Going Well—Mr Nettlefold Returns to New Zealand—Track Work—Cross Battery.**

**DUNEDIN, December 23.**

Only six bookmakers took out a license to bet at the D.J.C. summer meeting, and it is understood that the smallness of the numbers is accounted for by the fact that there was supposed to be a mutual agreement between the fielders that 20sovs should not be paid for the privilege, but somehow or other the arrangement fell through as far as some of the better were concerned.

Rose Bloom travelled well in a gallop with Apollodoris over six furlongs on Saturday, and the latter had to be shaken up at the finish to get

home on terms with the Obligado mare. They occupied 1min 18.2-5s. in their task, which was a fairly good go on a dead track.

Mr. Sid Nettlefold, the racing partner of Mr. D. J. Price, returned from Melbourne by last week's boat, and went on to Christchurch.

J. Rutledge has at present a strong team of seven in active commission. It would be pleasing if another Canterbury were eventually discovered amongst the hazard number.

Astrakhan shaped well in a gallop over ten furlongs in company with Notus on Saturday, and appeared to be finishing slightly better than the massive son of Lord Rosslyn. Gapon appeared to be easily Grafton Loch's superior in a gallop over five furlongs on Saturday, and is evidently getting back to the brilliancy he displayed as a two-year-old. J. W. Taggart has his hurdler Leeside looking bright and well, and on Saturday the son of Brasoside ran down five furlongs in 1min 8.4-5sec. after bowling along over a circuit.

The latest addition to J. Rutledge's team is a well-turned and fair-sized chestnut named British Peer. He was got by Peerage from Britannica, a daughter of King Cole and Ramarama. The last-named is from the Traducer mare Spristall. It is to be hoped he will prove a real heart of oak. The Stepniak—Mist colt Sacha, which Harry Ellis has in active commission with the hope that he will be found distinguishing himself under the Hon. G. McLean's Zetland spots, has grown a good deal since he was taken up in the early spring. At that time his ponified appearance did not suggest the youngster would develop into a fair-sized horse, but he appears to be going that way at present. Sacha in conformation and comportment somewhat resembles De la Rey. Notus, Apollodoris and others in the stable continue to get through useful tasks. Cross Battery is the star member of the team which J. W. Taggart brought South for the Wingatui summer meeting. The mare is looking very well, albeit a bit lighter in condition than when last raced on the same track. Grafton Loch was noticed to be moving a trifle short the other morning, and on looking him over after he returned from the track, it was found that the son of Grafton sports a slightly doubtful-looking fetlock on his near foreleg. It would be a pity if the suspicion developed into a certainty, as, with another season's development on his frame Grafton Loch would very likely be found repaying the cost and trouble which he has caused up to date. A spell after his Christmas engagements would probably put him right again.

## WELLINGTON.

**The Manawatu Meeting—Elevation Puts up a Great Performance—Merrie Rose Wins the Summer Handicap—A Promising Hurdler—An Overdue Win**

**WELLINGTON, December 24.**

The Manawatu Racing Club opened its summer racing carnival on Saturday. The attendance was poor owing to the time being unsuitable for business folks. Only four of the smaller fry of bookmakers paid a license fee, and were but poorly patronised by the public. The victories of the outsiders Splendid Idea and Merrie Rose gave them practically skinnors over these races, but on the day they could not have done much good. It is not thought that with the totalisator paying two dividends that the metalicians will prove a serious menace to racing clubs. They will probably have to lay very liberal prices to entice wagering.

The racing was full of incident, and Elevation's performance in the Palmerston Stakes set the hall-mark on the little chestnut's deeds this season. After the start, which was not a happy effort, Elevation stumbled and lost fifteen or twenty lengths. Meantime Oxtan and Sir Frisco were making a bee-line for the winning post, and it looked any odds against Elevation ever catching them. Sid Reid, however, showed supreme confidence in his mount and refrained from bustling him. Reid then set down for a stern chase, rounding the bend, and he was seen to be overhauling the leaders very rapidly, and one in the straight he sat down to get every ounce out of the champion. Elevation repeated his Feilding Stakes performance, and got up in time to snatch a victory from Sir Frisco by a neck. The time for the race was officially clocked as 1m. 17s., but this was an obvious error, as many private watches recorded 1m. 15s. To present 21lb in weight, and a tremendous start to a smart colt like Sir Frisco, is an extraordinary feat, and it would require an exceptionally brilliant horse to have any chance against Mr. Bidwill's slashing colt.

The Summer Handicap saw eleven go to the post, and the Wairarapa division would have nothing but Merrie Rose, who had been responsible for some excellent track work. Grand Slam did not move

very freely in his preliminary, and is evidently feeling the effects of his Riccarton campaign. Stratagem, Sandix, and William were the commoners of the field, and it is time that William be less harshly dealt with by handicappers. The race proved a runaway affair, for Merrie Rose quickly put six lengths of daylight between herself and the field. She was going smoothly and freely all the way, and finished the last furlong strongly. Mr. Henrys has rehanded Merrie Rose for the Manawatu Cup, and she will now carry 7-4.

The other events can be briefly dealt with. The winner of the Highden Hurdles, Papatawa, had been doing good work at Woodville, and she was well backed accordingly. Papatawa is a fine bold hurdler, possessing plenty of pace, and she won her race in a manner which suggested that further distinction will await her. Kaipetipeti was anchored by his 12.3, and, moreover, struck a hurdle. Compass and Pardon still jump badly.

The Maiden Hack saw a couple of racy-looking three-year old fillies to the front, and both Truganini and Crucinella (half-sister to Nonette) should have a career of usefulness ahead of them. A big bay, Penates, made the pace a cracker, and only succumbed at the distance. Mon Ami, by Soult—Satanella, St. Paul's dam, got away badly, and the effort to make up her ground took the sting out of the black filly. St. Albert won the Tiritea Hurdles very easily in 3m. 46.2-5, the St. Andrew gelding gave a finished exposition of hurdling. Lull would have paid only a short price had he succeeded. Sen Sim was left at the post, and Gold Dust nearly clouted his rider out of the saddle. But for this mishap Gold Dust might have troubled the winner. Black Reynard was finishing very strongly. It is over twelve months ago since Splendid Idea won, and in the interim the Captain Webb mare has been expected to capture a stake or two, but consistently failed. However, she compensated by easily winning the Awapuni Handicap and paying a very long price. Ballarat showed that she has not lost her old brilliancy, and just succumbed to Lord Soult's strong run at the finish. Dusky Morn is a solidly-framed bay whose track work was a general theme. However, the horse got a bad run, and under the circumstances he did well to finish fourth. Buoyant and Tan San had the finish of the Hack Welter to themselves, and were lengths in front of the third horse Gauze. The Rand had the services of S. Reid in the Himatangi Welter. The son of Gold Ref—Pearl Shot was easily the most commanding-looking candidate. Martyrium turned into the straight with a slight lead, and it was only by dint of most vigorous horsemanship that Reid landed The Rand a winner.

## WANGANUI.

**Frank Lind's String—Irish Rifle Very Well—Engaged at Rangitikei—Flimsnap Amiss—Explode Breaks His Shoulder and has to be Destroyed—Good Gallop by Maniapoto**

**WANGANUI, December 24.**

Frank Lind is now training Fishermaid, in addition to Xavier and Dear Dolly. The former has changed hands recently, I understand.

Walter Raynor has Irish Rifle in very good nick just at present. The Musketry gelding will be seen out at Rangitikei on New Year's Day, having been accepted for in the Cup in which he has been given 9.0.

Bunyan will not be a contestant at the Manawatu meeting, but will be on hand at Bulls to fulfil his engagements. The son of Pilgrim's Progress has had to pay the penalty for winning the Guineas here, as he has been asked to concede weight to some proved good ones in the Scott Memorial. In addition to Bunyan Tilley also has Nova and Asteroid engaged at Rangitikei on the first day. The two latter are in the Cup, in which Asteroid has been awarded 8.0 and Nova 7.6.

Mahoe and Belario are progressing favourably in their preparation on the local track under the watchful eye of Jimmy Peachey. The former is not engaged on the first day at Bulls, but Belario figures in the Cup at 6.9.

Flimsnap has gone amiss, the trouble being something similar to that which caused Martello's temporary retirement. The latter is pretty well right again, and should be seen out before long.

Explode, the big son of Explosion—Wangaehu, broke his shoulder on the local track one day last week, and had to be destroyed. Explode was a very big one, but he could muster up a lot of pace when he got under way.

In addition to King's Birthday W. Powell is supervising the training of Te Kuri. The former and a full sister to Golden Eagle, which R. Johnston has under his charge have been indulged in swimming exercise recently.

The total expenses of the Feilding race meeting amounted to £5083, and of this amount £2000 was taken from the

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