

Sportsmen going down to the races and Show at Opatiki should note that the Northern Co.'s s.s. Ngatiawa will run an excursion there on Monday next, leaving at 1 p.m. The excursions will be given an opportunity of seeing the famous White Island, one of the most uncanny spots in the world.

The fifth Test match is in an interesting stage. England, getting Australia in on a bad wicket, rattled them out for 137, and then made 281, Gunn getting 122 not out. The Australians are getting themselves out of the hole, having put on 357 for six wickets at the time of going to press. Trumper at last came out of his shell, and after many failures played a fine innings of 166.

## INTER-PROVINCIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

### CANTERBURY.

CHRISTCHURCH, February 26.

Grandstand won two out of the three hurdle races he started in at Dunedin last week. The big Grand Cross gelding is just the sort of animal to make a first-class performer over hurdles, and he should distinguish himself in big company during the winter racing campaign.

What an improved horse Armamento is. Since the son of Lord Roslyn left W. Davis' stable he has won some good races, his latest success being the Dunedin Cup. The horse is now trained on the beach at New Brighton and is allowed to be hacked about just the same as any saddle horse. Evidently this is just the sort of work Armamento likes.

Husbandman was a cut above the other two-year-olds at Dunedin and won the Champagne Stakes in hollow style. He should win again in better company during the autumn meetings.

Canterbury-owned horses won nearly all the principal races at Dunedin. Armamento, Husbandman, Pretty Nell, Grand Stand, Cerise and Blue Sea King, Dabchick, Ilarita, Nancy Star and Thunderer, all won races, Grand Stand, and Sea King each scoring two wins.

F. E. Jones is fast getting to the top of the winning jockey's list. This promising young rider won six races at Dunedin.

All Guns and Tirole were both sold during the Dunedin Meeting.

Glenculloch is booked to leave for Wanganui on Monday next to take part in the Jackson Stakes. The Clanranald colt is very well just now and should be hard to beat in his next engagement. Millionaire will go to Wanganui with Glenculloch.

The champion filly Feetfoot, who was showing signs of lameness after winning the Middle Park Plate, has again resumed work. She went a couple of rounds the other morning and pulled up apparently quite sound.

Leaside gave a poor showing in his first hurdle race at the Tasmanian meeting, but on the second day romped home an easy winner. The crowd gave the horse and rider a bad time. The stewards held a meeting, but after considering the case, decided not to interfere with the judge's decision.

St. Joe was never prominent in the Hobart Cup.

Munjeet is one of the favourites for the Newmarket Handicap run on Saturday next. The Stepniak mare is reported to be in her best form and has been heavily backed by her connections for the big sprint event.

Clanchattan ran like a commoner in his races at the Dunedin meeting and is a hard horse to follow. He has won two races in two years and has probably proved the most expensive horse in the Chokebore stable.

Suttee got badly injured while running in the Berwick Hack Handicap at the Dunedin meeting and had to be shot. This was a piece of bad luck for the filly's owners who fully expected to win a good race with her. The filly had proved that she could gallop fast and was a good advertisement for her sire Tyranny.

The Benzoin horse Fireiron, who went over to Victoria when Munjeet left the Dominion a few weeks ago, broke down in a race at the Sandown meeting, and will have to be spelled for some time.

The New Zealanders, Pink 'Un 8st 13lb, Munjeet 8st 13lb, Dusky Morn 8st 3lb, and Captain Shannon 7st 2lb, have accepted for the Newmarket Handicap. Munjeet will carry a lot of Christchurch money.

A bookmaker told me that it would cost him nearly £2000 in license fees if he wished to attend the various race meetings. He is trying to ascertain how he can come out with a credit balance at the end of the year if he goes on with the game. One of the bookmakers doing business at Dunedin got in early and backed Armamento for a lot of money. The totalisator was also patronised by the said bookmaker whose face simply beamed

# THE GREAT SCULLING RACE FOR THE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP.

## VICTORY FOR THE NEW ZEALANDER.

WEBB WINS BY 2¾ LENGTHS.

The great race for the sculling championship of the world took place on Tuesday on the famous Wanganui River. For weeks before, Wanganui had been in a simmer of excitement over the approaching contest, and with the constant influx of visitors, this was constantly added. It reached a climax when the local sculler prevailed, there being a wild outburst of enthusiasm such as the township has never seen before. The interest was by no means confined to Wanganui, but extended all over the Dominion. In Auckland for days past the race has been the chief topic of conversation, and when the time approached for the results to be wired through, great crowds assembled at the newspaper offices in anticipation of the posting of the winner's name. When it was gleaned that Webb had proved victorious, there was great cheering.

### THE RACE.

Although rain fell in the morning at Wanganui, it had cleared off before the race, and the water was in perfect order. Webb was on the starting-line first, where he was soon joined by Tressider. The local man won the toss and took the inside berth, but there was nothing in it, the water being quite calm. The start was by mutual consent, and was a splendid one, Tressider striking 30 to the minute and Webb about two less. In the first three hundred yards there was nothing in it between the rivals, but then Webb's more machine-like action began to tell, and inch by inch he drew out. Amidst great cheering from the spectators Webb continued to get clear, and at the mile post was a length ahead, the time being 6min 1sec. Slowly but surely the Wanganui man drew away from his Australian rival, and at the two-mile post was three lengths to the good, the time being 12m. 6s. Getting farther away he crossed over into Tressider's water and gave the latter his backwash. Half a mile from the post the Australian spurred gallantly, and closed up the gap to a little over two lengths. Nearer than that he could not get, and when the winning line was crossed Webb was two and three-quarter lengths to the good.

There was continuous cheering at the finish, the defeated man getting a splendid reception from the crowd, who were not slow to recognise the grit with which he had fought a losing fight. That he was not rowed out by shown by the fact that he sculled back to Wanganui, distant over seven miles, immediately after the race, being cheered all along the route. Possibly if the Newcastle man had put a little more of that reserve strength into the race during the early stages of the contest, the finish might have been closer. A particularly pleasant feature of the race was the good feeling shown by both scullers, Webb speaking of Tressider in terms of warm praise, while the Australian freely admitted that the better man had won. The time for the race, viz., 20m. 28s., is 17 seconds faster than when Webb beat Towns on the Parramatta River, although the course is about 100 yards longer, but, of course, the conditions were somewhat different.

### WEBB'S RECORD.

Webb is 29 years of age, and among other records, has the following to his credit:—

when Armamento got first past the post. Bookmakers very seldom lose when they back horses they know something about, and the Christchurch bookmaker who backed Armamento last week, probably knows more about horses than anyone else.

### OTAGO.

DUNEDIN, February 26.

Mr J. E. Henrys and Mr R. J. Mason leave for Melbourne by this week's boat. The former goes away for a brief holiday which will include an attendance at Flemington during the V.R.C. meeting, and the latter travels on to England in order to enjoy a lengthy rest from the labours which materially assisted on keeping Mr G. G. Stead to the fore as a most successful sportsman.

The three-year-old colt, All Guns, by Pallas—Greek Maid, was purchased by

1905-6.—1st Champion Single Sculls, and 1st Champion Double Sculls, at Pictou; 1st Senior Fours, at Waitara, 2nd Senior Fours, at Wanganui; 1st Senior Single Sculls, at Wanganui.

1904-5.—2nd Champion Single Sculls, and 1st Champion Double Sculls, at Wellington; 1st Senior Clinker Fours, 1st Clinker Fours in best Boats, and 1st Senior Single Sculls, at Wanganui.

1903-4.—1st Senior Fours, and 1st Senior Single Sculls, at Wellington.

1902-3.—1st Senior Single Sculls, and 1st Champion Single Sculls, at Wanganui.

1901-2.—1st Senior Single Sculls, and 1st Junior Single Sculls, at Wanganui.

1900-1.—1st Maiden Single Sculls, 2nd Junior Fours, and unplaced Clinker Junior Fours, at Wanganui.

1906.—Beat Jas. Stanbury on the Wanganui River on December 26.

1907.—Beat C. Towns on the Parramatta for the championship of the world on August 3.

1908.—Defeated R. Tressider for the world's championship, February 25.

### WHAT TRESSIDER HAS DONE.

Tressider, who is eight years older than his opponent, has done a good deal of rowing in small handicap events, but his best races have been when in 1903 he beat Harry Pearce for £100 and the championship of Australia, and again three years later, when he defeated Thoroughgood for a similar stake, and the same title. George Towns beat Tressider in 1904 on the Parramatta for the world's championship.

### BYGONE CHAMPIONS.

The first race for the world's championship, so far as is known, took place in 1846, when Coombes defeated Campbell on the Thames. He followed this up the following year by beating Newell, and four years later did the same to Mackinney. Coombes was beaten twice by Cole in 1852, and then Messenger and Kelley held it. Next that fine sculler Chambers came along, and in turn defeated Kelley, White, Everson and Green, but in '65 Kelley had his revenge, and also beat Hamill on the Tyne. They were doughty rivals, Chambers and Kelley, and there cannot have been much between them. Chambers won the title again in '66, but Kelley beat him once more in '67, only to be beaten by Renforth in '68. Sadler held it for two years till the Australian, Trickett, came on the scene, and in succession he beat Sadler, Rush and Laycock. The race against Rush in 1877 was the first championship rowed on the Parramatta River, afterwards the scene of many heroic struggles. The great Canadian Hanlan first won in 1880, and in succession he worsted Trickett, Laycock, Boyd, Trickett and Laycock, but met his Waterloo at the hands of William Beach. The writer will not readily forget the scene at Circular Quay, Sydney, when good old Bill Beach, as his admirers termed him, returned after the victory. At the very least a dozen crowded ferry steamers met the Orient liner at Sydney Heads and escorted her up the harbour. On landing a procession was formed, and finally Beach had to address a crowd of ten thousand people from the balcony of Deeble's Hotel. Since Beach's time the holders of the title have been Kemp, poor Searle, who died on his return from beating O'Connor, Kemp (again), McLean, Stanbury, Gaudaur, of Canada, George Towns, Stanbury (again), George Towns (once more), C. Towns, and now Webb. Truly the Wanganui man figures in a list of famous scullers.

Mr "C. Machell" during the progress of the racing at Wingatui on Saturday. The colt's price was £400, with an additional £100 out of the first win, and he is to be trained for future engagements by W. McDonald who, for some time, acted as private trainer to the Hon. G. McLean.

The thirty-fifth Dunedin Cup meeting must be marked down as one of the most, if not the most successful held in recent years by the Dunedin Jockey Club. The attendance on Cup Day was probably a record, and even exceeded the number that favoured Forbury Park in the old days. The Exhibition Cup Meeting alone takes precedence over last week's meeting; but the exceptional circumstances under which the former was held, makes the comparison unfair. A pleasing feature of last week's meeting was that there were present an unusually large number of visiting sportsmen from Canterbury and other parts of the South Island. A few Wel-

lington visitors also put in an appearance and they included Messrs A. E. Whyte, secretary to the Wellington Racing Club and Mr J. H. Pollock, handicapper to the same club.

The sport throughout was of an interesting nature. Armamento, the cast-off from W. Davis' stables, won the Cup in good style, but gave a very indifferent display in the Wingatui Handicap. Speculate won the principal handicap on the second day after a fine race, and on the concluding day, Sea King, the winner of the Publicans' Handicap, developed unexpected (to the public) staying and won handsomely. The Club achieved a financial success over the meeting, and that should inspire them in their efforts for next season.

L. G. King has abandoned the idea of journeying to Melbourne and leaves for the North this week.

Tirole, the winner of the first day's hurdles at the Cup Meeting, was sold on Friday last at 25gns at auction. He was sore after both his races, and it is doubtful if he will survive another preparation.

It is understood that the Wellington R.C. have paid the value of the stake, won by Suttee, from a start effected before time, to Messrs Harris and Solomon. Old St. Denis showed some of his old-time pace last week, but failed to last out his races. He hopped out with The Seer on the last day and was probably responsible for bringing about the latter's defeat, or at least he materially contributed towards that end.

Mr W. Quinn, of Tapanui, who bred Lone Star, has a twin three-year-old half-brother to the Stepniak gelding. They were got by Imperator, a son of Gipsy Grand out of the Medallion mare Corolla. It is understood they are not to be raced, but will be used as utility horses. Lone Star showed form last week that would make plenty of people anxious to own either him or his relations.

Sea King, by his brace of victories in the Publicans' Handicap and Anniversary Handicap, gave Mr H. F. Nicol a well-deserved turn of luck, as Cross Battery and the first-named horse, must have proved costly equines up to date. Sea King was both his races in good style and finished well when he won over a mile.

Lapland is accused of being a whistler and is unlikely to repeat the form he showed in the last New Zealand Cup.

Thunderer ran very consistently in his races last week, and his win in the Wingatui Handicap was well deserved. Judging by the manner in which he trotted round the saddling paddock prior to running in the Publicans' Handicap, and also by the fact that he stopped badly in his races, it would appear that All Guns was a bit short of work last week. He was improving as he went along and should be a useful member of his new trainer's team.

Luresome looked a bit light when she stripped on the last day of the Cup meeting. She is only a handful and has been kept well into the collar since she raced at the D.J.C. Xmas Meeting.

The Stepniak—Hermosa gelding Ooyoi won his races on the first day of the D.J.C. Meeting in a convincing manner, and should win again if he trains on.

The Obligado filly Octave has created a very favourable impression when running at the Tapanui Meeting, and considerably impressed those at Wingatui by the brilliancy she displayed last week.

Beneform, the winner of the two-year-old event on the concluding day of the Cup Meeting, is growing into a very handsome horse. He is a bit on the leg, but his chief fault lies with his contracted feet. With the sting out of the ground, he acted with much more freedom than he did in the Champagne Stake.

Lupulite was a pricked balloon after his match with Petrovna.

Clanchattan did not run up to expectations last week. He was rumoured to be as good as Stratagem in private, but in public however he was found wanting.

Grand Stand was the hero hurdler last week and both his winning efforts were comfortably accomplished. On the first day he jumped a bit big, but he did not lose much time at fences in his subsequent races.

Husbandman cantered home in the Champagne Stakes. He had weak opposition, but he looks susceptible to a vast amount of improvement. In fact he is a raking great colt who will probably require another couple of seasons on him before he is fully finished.

Hilarity ran two good races in the Dunedin Cup and D.J.C. Handicap, but her showing on the last day was on a par with her previous form. The manner in which she stayed out ten furlongs was a bit of a surprise, and she will win over that distance when the opposition is not too strong.

Dabchick did not have anything to spare when she won the City Stakes Handicap, but she finished in the resolute manner of a stayer. She reminds one a bit of Gladsome and shows a lot of quality.