

A great authority once gave it as his opinion that to the whole of the British Isles no more than three horses of the highest class are produced in any season. The average is probably less. It has been admitted that in some seasons in England it is difficult to even find one performer on the Turf entitled to be put in the "front row" if judgment is made by the highest standard. There have been Derby winners that proved to be quite ordinary animals when pitted against the best form of the day. Sir Visto was a case in point. It must, though, be admitted that the winning of a race like the Epsom Derby generally carries a certificate of high merit with it, and, as a rule, the colt or filly that gains the Blue Riband of the English Turf manages to confirm the form in subsequent tests of speed and stamina.

If the percentage of the best class of horses is so low in any given year in England, how much less must it be in Australia? For, at a rough guess, there are probably four foals that see the light every year in England to the one in Australia. So it will be seen that the chance of having a Mountain King knocked down to you at the ring-side is very remote, especially as in every season many of the most promising yearlings do not come under the hammer at all, but are withheld from sale. Mountain King himself, for instance, was not offered for public competition. He is still owned by his breeder, who from the first in all likelihood looked forward to the gigantic chestnut making a sire some day. Had he entered the ring as a yearling, Mountain King would, no doubt, have made a lot of money. And it often pays to go to a high figure for a yearling, though it often happens that the most costly are not the best in this connection.

There are high-priced failures every season, while "cheap lots" are sometimes more than useful, but "the man with the money" is often rewarded for enterprise at the yearling sales as elsewhere. There was talk of "the fool and his money," etc., when Sievier gave ten thousand for Sceptre as a youngster, but it turned out one of the most profitable speculations ever made in horseflesh. Still, the "little man" need not despair altogether. His "hundred" occasionally brings in a good winner, while the thousands of the "capitalists" miss the mark. Remember Newhaven, for one. There were several more expensive yearlings than the Newminster colt sold on the same afternoon; in fact, he was one of the comparatively cheap lots. Yet he won the Maribyrnong Plate, Derby, Melbourne Cup, and other races in Australia, and then went to England and landed, amongst other events, the City and Suburban Handicap. And there may be a Newhaven to be picked up at the same price, or less, at the sales this Autumn. It is mostly a lottery, and one never knows what the "lucky bag" may send forth.—"Melbourne Sporting News."

THE SOUTH AUCKLAND RACING CLUB.

The handsome sum of £600 is to be distributed in stakes at the annual race meeting of the South Auckland R.C., which will take place on Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28. Mr. W. I. Conradi, the secretary, notifies owners that nominations for all events close at the Hospital Chambers, Hood-street, Hamilton, or with Mr. H. B. Massey, High-street, Auckland, at 9 p.m. to-morrow (Friday), the 6th inst. No doubt the list of entries will be a good one.

ENGLISH HORSES IN AUSTRALIA.

The last few years have seen a number of English horses brought out to Australia as racehorses. Referring to this, the "Australasian" says:—At the time Mr. W. R. Wilson practically opened up the Australian trade in racehorses with England by sending home Merman, it was a rare thing for an English horse to come here to race. We had Panic sent out by "Bruni" to Mr. Blackwell, of Tasmania, in the early sixties. He ran second in a Melbourne Cup with roset. Nemesis, drowned or killed soon afterwards on the City of Melbourne, won the Metropolitan of 1876, and a few others, such as The Englishman, raced with some success, but turfmen, until the saw Merman, Maluma, Paris, Newhaven, etc., doing well in England would not hear of imported horses for racing. Ten years ago Positano showed the erroneousness of this idea. Then came Sir Foote, Playaway, and others. Now it is quite the fashion to buy up young horses in England and send them out here to race. Provided the price is not exorbitant, the speculation should pay. If they fail at racing, the importations may do well at the stud. What effect on the breed all these St. Simon horses will have, remains to be seen. There can be no two opinions about the

modern English horse being faster than the average Australian. Some years ago that keen observer, Mr. Joseph Thompson, wrote "Terlinga"—"It is no use sending Australian sprinters here. Ours are better than yours. Good stayers are all right. We have not got many of them." There you have the position in a few words. These English sires are likely to dominate the position, and they will cause time records to be beaten, but if breeders neglect the good old hard strains, Australia's reputation for breeding sound weight-carrying horses that can get a distance may be damaged. We must say we do like to see the names of Panic, Yattendon, and Musket in a pedigree. We hope the name for soundness and stamina will never be lost to Australia. As far as type is concerned the talk about deterioration in the thoroughbred is all nonsense. Thirty years ago eight and a half inches of bone was considered rare. Now nine inches is not so uncommon. Anything the old horse of the sixties could do over a distance the Carabines, Abercorns, and Wakefuls could eclipse by seconds. We are all right so far, and in comparison with other countries we do not sin to excess in sprinting—but there may be trouble ahead.

There is a great race in Australia between Grafton and Wallace for first place on the list of winning sires. Wallace got a big lift at Flemington, his descendants winning the St. Leger, Newmarket Handicap, and Sires' Produce Stakes. Not to be outdone, Grafton's progeny have annexed the Brunswick Stakes and the Australian Cup. At present Wallace has a very slight lead.

Auckland owners do not seem to relish for their horses the steamer trip between Onehunga and New Plymouth. Very few from the North have been entered for the Taranaki meeting, but the fixture has been freely supported from other centres.

A number of Auckland sportsmen have gone South to assist at the Wanganui meeting. Among the number is Mr. Hayr, secretary Avondale Jockey Club.

Lochbuie was in good form at the Papakura meeting, winning a double in good style.



DICK ARNST, WHO HAS CHALLENGED WEBB FOR THE SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD. Denton, Photo.

NOTES.

(By The Judge.)

Entries for the Third Feilding Stakes of 500sovs close with Mr. E. Goodbehere at 8.30 p.m. to-morrow (Friday).

The Waipa R.C. will hold a meeting at Te Awamutu on April 1.

Hallow Eve, who last week won the English Waterloo Cup, is a red bitch belonging to Mr. E. Hulton. Originally known as Forrest Kitten, she was got by Pateley Bridge (a son of Mellor Moor from the great Thoughtless Beauty) from Forest Fairy, by Under the Globe, from Fantine. Silhouette, the runner up, belongs to the Earl of Sefton, and is by Strange Mystery from Slish. By a curious coincidence this year's winner is a litter sister to last year's Waterloo Cup winner Long Span.

In answer to "Wager," Pretty Polly did not start in the Derby of 1904. In that year the runners were:—St. Amant (1), John of Gaunt (2), St. Denis (3), Andover, Henry I., Coxswain, the French horse Gouvernant, and Lancashire. Pretty Polly won the Oaks at the same meeting.

Mountain King and Antonio will measure strides again to-day in the All-aged Stakes at Flemington, but this time the conditions are more in favour of the three-year-old champion.

Landlock seems to have lost his once great sprinting abilities. He ran fairly well in the Papakura Cup, but couldn't pace it with Lochbuie in the Railway Handicap.

Although Apologue won the Essenden Stakes very easily, the opposition was not very strong. Tulkeroo, who finished second, occupied a similar position in the Australian Cup. In the Essenden Stakes he was meeting Apologue on even terms, but in the Cup the ex-Aucklander had to concede the son of Simmer 23lb.

Lord Seaton beat Le Beau in the Ohaupo Cup, but in the Papakura Cup positions were reversed.

Next year it would be better if the special to Papakura was started an hour earlier, and the meeting commenced at two p.m. Racegoers like to be back in town by six p.m., and there is no reason why they should not be after the Papakura meeting.

There are eight horses in the Waihi Cup, to be run on Saturday. Sweet Alice is top weight with 9st.

Sonoma showed a glimpse of her old form at Papakura when she annexed the Welter Handicap.

Mr. W. Walters, of Glenora Park, was a passenger to New Plymouth by the Rarawa on Tuesday, Wanganui being his destination.

The Dannevirke R.C. autumn meeting takes place on March 11 and 12.

Good nominations have been received for the Ohinemuri Jockey Club's meeting on March 16 and 17. Handicaps are due on Monday.

Bookmakers are to be charged £7 10s. for betting at the Ohinemuri Meeting, with 10s. a day for clerks. So as to defeat the syndicate method of betting, if there are six or less bookmakers they will be charged £20 a day.

Mountain King's time for the St. Leger has only been beaten twice, viz., by The Officer (1897) and by Bobadil (1899).

Gold Crest has been given top weight of 9st in the Napier Carnival Cup.

The Huntly-Kimihia Racing Club has been formed, and will hold the initial meeting on May 16. Mr. J. McIntosh is secretary.

Mountain King had a very soft snap in the V.R.C. St. Leger, beating Peru in a canter by four lengths. As the latter two days later won the Australian Cup, it will be seen that "the King's" claim to being the fastest horse ever seen in Australia is based on some solid ground, tall though the order may seem.

The Royal Artillery mare Pearlle won three races at the Shannon meeting last week.

Elevation is to make his next appearance under silk in the Manawatu Stakes.

Master Delaval is reported to have done some sound gallops on the Wanganui track, and is very well for the Cup race to-day.

Handicaps for the first day of the Ohinemuri meeting are due on Monday next.

Weights for the first day's events of the Taranaki J.C. meeting are due to appear on Monday.

The Wanganui Cup meeting commences to-day.

Entries for the Auckland Trotting Club's autumn meeting close on the 20th inst.

Victoria has beaten Tasmania at cricket by 337 and 258 to 302 and 235.

The Englishment scored 404 in their first innings against South Australia, the consistent Gunn getting another century. After the match the visitors leave for England, playing a match against West Australia en route.

Ben Deeley further added to his long list of wins by getting Lochbuie first past the post on two occasions at Papakura.

The rising two-year-old colt by Eton from Anadyomene, died on Saturday from tetanus.

The other day Mr. Sol Green offered 5,000 guineas for Mountain King, contingent on delivery prior to the Futurity Stakes. Mr. McDonald declined.

A London paper announces the death in Paris of Mr. T. R. Hennessy, the well-known sportsman and owner of racehorses. He was a great pigeon shot, and had won several big prizes at Monte Carlo, Paris, Dieppe, Deauville, etc., but of late years he had not been very successful on the turf.

If any trainer in Australia has cause to review the past 18 months with pleasure it is I. Earnshaw, as during that period horses from his stable have accounted for two Derbies, two St. Legers, two Melbourne Cups, two Caulfield Cups, a Carrington Stakes, and a Futurity Stakes, to say nothing of other events.

With the present scarcity of food, the following is a hint from an American paper worth quoting:—A farmer has found a way by which he can make his horses use up to a good advantage the poor hay raised on the ranch. He learned that horses could be made to eat poor hay with great relish if it were sprinkled over with a little cheap molasses and water. He tried it, and has made a great success. The horses no longer waste the hay, but clear up every whisp of it that is thrown in the manger, and look well. This has been tried in the southern part of California, where hay is scarce and where cheaper qualities of food have to be used.

No more forcible evidence of the sensational progress that has been made in the development of the trot-