

ter and pacer can be had than a comparison of the number of extreme speed performers at both gaits at the close of the racing season of 1908 and those at the present time—a period of ten years. At the close of 1898 the world's trotting champion was Alik, 2.03¾, and only two other trotters had taken records of 2.05 or better, these being Nancy Hanks 2.04 and Azote 2.04¾. The list of pacers with records of 2.05 or better numbered twenty-two, and of these only four had records faster than 2.03, namely, the champion Star Pointer 1.59¾, John R. Gentry 2.00½, Joe Patchen 2.01¼, and Robert J. 2.01½. So that ten years ago the total number of trotters and pacers in the 2.05 list was just twenty-five. At the close of the racing season of 1907 we find no less than 107 members of the 2.05 list, thirteen trotters and ninety-four pacers.—'Stock Farm.'

Poor George Dixon, the one-time feather-weight champion of the world, is dead. Alone and friendless, he passed away in the alcoholic ward of Bellevue Hospital, New York, on January 6. Inflammatory rheumatism and heart disease, following a protracted bout with John Barleycorn, was the immediate cause of death.

The publishers of "The Argus" and "The Age" were proceeded against in the District Court last Thursday for publishing betting information contrary to the Gaming Act. The alleged offences took place in October last. The publishers of both papers were also charged with having published information as to the drawing of Tattersall's sweep on the Caulfield Cup. The charges were withdrawn on the defendants paying costs and giving an assurance that they would not offend again. It is a pity (says the "Referee") that the papers did not see the thing through. The odds are long that even if a conviction had been recorded by the lower Court, it would not have held good in a higher Court.

## INTER-PROVINCIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

### CANTERBURY.

CHRISTCHURCH, March 4. Glencloch and Millionaire, who will represent Sir Geo. Clifford in the Jackson Stakes at Wanganui, left for the scene of the race last night. The three-year-old has been responsible for some attractive work at Riccarton lately, having recovered from recent ailments, and should give a good account of himself in this week's classic event. Millionaire is a promising colt, but I do not anticipate that he will be able to beat his older stable companion, who should be difficult to beat.

Munjeet, who finished fourth in the Newmarket Handicap, was well backed in Christchurch, the stable party being quietly confident that she would be capable of pulling off the big event. I did hear that they were only afraid of the winner, Scotland.

St. Joe and Leaside returned from Tasmania last week, the hurdle racer being the only stake-earner. St. Joe ran much below his best form in the races he started in.

M. Dunn, a leading Tasmanian jockey, has come over to New Zealand to try his fortune. He is at present located at Riccarton, but he talks of making his headquarters at Trentham. He wants to have a good look round before settling anywhere.

The Ashburton Club has decided to give £800 in stakes at its autumn meeting on March 13 and 14.

Murray Hobbs, accompanied by Mrs. Hobbs, left for a trip to England last week. They expect to be away for some considerable time.

C. Hack will ride Saga in the Wanganui Cup. He left on Friday, and on his return will do the principal riding for Mr. J. C. N. Grigg's stable.

The Akaroa Racing Club has received excellent entries for its annual meeting on Tuesday next. Mr. J. H. Buchanan, one of the club's best supporters, has given a handsome cup for the winner of the Peninsula Cup.

The Ashburton Cup this year will carry with it a cup valued at 30sovs, given by Mr. J. C. N. Grigg.

Some of the principal events at the smaller race meetings have now been endowed with trophies well worth winning.

The Seer has been sent to the North Island, and he will in future be trained by A. White at Waipawa.

All Guns, who was recently purchased by "C. Machell," is being prepared by W. McDonald.



NO. 5.—MR. ARTHUR SELBY.

One of the first men we meet when visiting Ellerslie to assist at any meeting there is Mr. Arthur Selby. Everybody knows the lengthy spare form clad in the most immaculate hunting toggery, the long Dundreary whiskers, now, alas! getting all too white, the ruddy complexion, and the kindly blue eyes. And on seeing him it is impossible to avoid the thought, "Here's one of the old school, the typical fox hunter of our father's day." It was at Seven Oaks, in the hop county of Kent, that Arthur first saw the light just sixty-three years ago. A love of hunting was ingrained, and as quite a kiddy he used to turn out



and follow the beagles on foot. Later on he saw some exciting runs with the Surrey staghounds, a pack the writer has often seen at work. Then for some years Mr. Selby hunted regularly, mostly with the Mid-Kent Stag Hounds and West Kent Fox Hounds. Twenty-three years ago he left the Old Country for New Zealand, but it was not until 1893 that Selby

Nancy Stair, who was in M. Hobbs' stable prior to his departure for the Old Country, has been placed in G. Matthew's hands.

Harvest, who has not raced since last Oamaru up meeting, is in active work again. With the tracks a little softer than they are at present, Harvest ought to stand another preparation.

Fleetfoot, Buccleugh, Tremulous, Hilarity and Ivanoff have been regular attendants on the tracks, and should all be seen out at the autumn meeting.

The steeplechaser Eurus and hurdle racer Ability are both doing long, steady exercise in view of the coming season.

Petrovna has been having an easy time since the Dunedin meeting, but in a few days she will be joining the sprinting brigade. It is marvellous how this mare retains her brilliancy.

### OTAGO.

DUNEDIN, March 5. With the conclusion of the Dunedin Cup meeting and the Tahuna Trotting meeting, comes a lull in local racing. The Clutha Hack meeting, however, takes place on Friday next and no doubt will attract a few sports from Dunedin.

The Wanganui Cup meeting is set down for Thursday and Saturday of this week, but no other meeting of much consequence takes place until March 19, when the Waimate Racing Club's gathering, which promises to be unusually attractive this year, is to be held.

The South Canterbury meeting takes place on March 25 and 26, and on April 8 and 9 the Southland meeting will be the only gathering of local interest to separate us from the C.J.C. Autumn meeting.

A conspicuous feature of the Tahuna Park meeting was the capable starting of

came to Auckland, where he has resided ever since. With the Pakuranga Hunt Club in full swing, he promptly joined that institution, and has been closely identified with it ever since, having held the position of huntsman for fourteen years. In fact, the hounds without the Selbys (a son, Mr. C. Selby, is the whip) would be like Hamlet without the ghost, only much more so. Hunting has been Selby's hobby all his life, and if he lives to a century he will still be found on the back of something that can jump. He has had some good animals under him from time to time, the best, perhaps, being the Opawa horse Defamer, who lived to a great age, and Nor-west, one of the most popular animals that ever carried silk in Auckland. Although Nor-west was considered done when Mr. Selby purchased him, yet, in addition to hunting him, a few good races were picked up by the aged son of Sou-wester and Betty. Among these were the Onehunga Steeplechase, in which the old fellow came home in front of Swimmer and Hinemoa. His sudden death after winning another jumping event at Ellerslie in which he had been cheered to the echo is fresh in everybody's mind. As Mr. Selby stood beside his dead favourite, if ever a man looked sorry, he did then. Somehow that one-time favourite hunting song, "The Place Where the Old Horse Died," fluttered through one's memory, for here, as in the song, a game horse had gone to his death rather than know defeat.

Mr. Selby has judged at numerous agricultural shows and ridden in many events. It is quite a treat to see the veteran taking a big fence sitting his horse like some Centaur of old. Many of our younger amateur horsemen might well take Selby as a pattern when going across country. Straight as the crow flies, with never an inch of daylight between himself and the saddle, Selby still shows us that the old brigade know how to ride. Fond of all outdoor sports, Selby has a penchant for cricket, and is, indeed, a very fair bat, a free hitter, and generally good for runs even now. As a fearless, straight goer and a thorough good sportsman, Selby will always be esteemed by those who know him.

Mr. L. C. Hazlett, who ranks in the writer's estimation as the most capable starter of the light harness horse ever seen at work in this country. Mr. Hazlett is also a capable man with the runners.

Eight Birkenhead yearlings, purchased by Mr. Cox, of Brisbane, from the Hon. J. D. Ormond, passed through to Melbourne by this week's boat. They are out of Camelot (Sir Launcelot—Trentalto), Industry (Nautilus imp—Elizabeth Villiers) Dryad, (St. Leger—Wood Nymph, Miss Never (Dunlop—Straight Shot), Miro (Dreadnought—Spinaway), Spot (Albany—Zelica), Aphrodite (Apremont—Water-sprite) and Agony (Dreadnought—Martyr).

In addition to the yearlings which are all colts, there is also a four-year-old gelding by Birkenhead—Sabra, in the shipment.

The writer has been informed that Ouidaform, the brother to Beneform, who was shipped to Australia several weeks back, has since been sold at 450 guineas. Ouidaform is a well-bred son of Multiform and should have been valuable as a sire as apart from a scarred back he was a good looking sort with plenty of size and quality.

Scotland, the winner of the Newmarket Handicap is a son of Wallace and the Padlock—Governess mare, Key. Governess, the second dam of Scotland, also threw Jane Eyre, who was a good performer here, but has produced nothing of note at the stud.

Weight is of paramount importance in flat racing, but some trotting men think nothing of sending a horse out with two or three stone overweight. What is a stopper to the runner is also a stopper to the trotter, but some people are particularly slow in waking up to that fact. At Tahuna Park it is not an uncommon sight to see a rider up who ever fills a 28lb saddle.

Cocoanu: went the 4min 54.2-5sec she put up in the Telephone Handicap in good

style and appeared to be waiting on Franciscan who was her pacemaker for the first 12 furlongs. The Prince Imperial mare also showed good grit when she followed Durbar home on the first day when in receipt six seconds from a 4min 47.3-5sec. winner.

Durbar, with a smaller bit of good luck and driven with that object in view, would not have much difficulty in making a track record.

We have had few trotters in the colony like the champion Friez and it is a matter of regret that he was not left a stallion. His brother Franz has showed himself by getting Franciscan a sire of speed. Franz evidently promises to keep this family name alive and on that account desires a "pat on the back."

Secretaries of racing clubs should note the dates of the British football team matches as it would be advisable for them to steer clear of these fixtures.

### HAWKE'S BAY.

NAPIER, March 5. Zimmerman and Bairoma were railed to Wanganui from Hastings on Monday.

Mr. Cox, of Queensland, has purchased another batch of Birkenhead's progeny from the Hon. J. D. Ormond. The pack, nine in number, were railed from Te Aute last week to Wellington, en route for their new home. With the exception of a three-year-old gelding out of Sabra, the lot were all yearling colts, the dams responsible for their production being Spot, Aphrodite, Agony, Dryad, Industry, Miro, Camelot and Miss Herot. A well-grown bunch—its odds in chance on appearances that they will prove hard to settle when their time arrives to enter the racing arena.

Ballyneety is stated by her owner to be as sound as a bridge cylinder, and it is more than probable that the little Irish mare will shortly be seen on the cantering grounds again.

A. Wood has finished breaking in the yearling sons of Guilda and Banjo. Both youngsters proved very tractable and the brace are now comporting themselves like old hands in their studies.

J. Rae is a daily visitant to the trying out grounds at Napier Park with the members of Mr. G. P. Donnelly's string, eight in number.

Nero, a Turquoise gelding who showed fair form in his efforts at Petane and Woodthorpe, has been taken in hand by J. Rollo.

Catve is being treated to a holiday.

Dexterous, a half sister by Torpedo to that one time good performer Dexterity, is now an inmate of P. Raynor's establishment at Greenmeadows. She is not a beauty to look at by any means, but sometimes these ugly ducklings can gallop with the best of the pretty ones.

Pretty Maid, who is also a pupil of Raynor's, looks big and bright and apparently her maternal troubles have not affected her in the least.

The other occupants of the boxes Winderbohm and the Squatter give evidence that their mentor has been attending to their wants and requirements in his usual capable manner.

Hapuka has been placed under George Colletto's control.

W. Stone is imparting the first rudiments of their education to a three-year-old full brother to Probable and a 2-year-old full sister to Comedian and Operetta.

Prizeman (Birkenhead-Torpedo) and consequently a half-blooded relative to Medallist and Outer, has been acquired by Mr. Hamish Wilson, of Rangitikei from the Hon. J. D. Ormond.

Notwithstanding the extremely dry weather that has been in evidence here for weeks past, Caretaker O'Halloran has the tracks at Napier Park in good order.

### SOUTH AUCKLAND RACING CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING.  
To be held on the  
CLAUDELANDS RACECOURSE,  
HAMILTON.  
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MARCH  
27 AND 28.

£600 IN STAKES.—£600

NOMINATIONS for all Events close with the Secretary at the Hospital Chambers, Hood-street, Hamilton, or H. B. Massey, High-street, Auckland, at 9 p.m. on FRIDAY, March 6.

WEIGHTS declared for First Day about FRIDAY, March 13.

ACCEPTANCES for First Day's Races to 9 p.m. FRIDAY, March 20, with Secretary, or Mr. Massey, at above addresses.

WEIGHTS, Second Day, at 8 p.m. on FRIDAY, March 27. ACCEPTANCES with Secretary to 10 p.m.

Nominations and Acceptances to be accompanied by necessary cash.

For full programme see "Referee" of February 26.

Full programme (pocket) sent to any address on application to

W. I. CONRADI,  
Secretary.