

ert L. Cleland; brown colt by Soult—Creecy, to Wm. Lyons; bay filly by Soult—Miss Annie, to Mrs. A. M. Coombe; bay colt by Eton—Anadyomene, to George Hyde; brown colt by Soult—Dreamland, to Mrs. A. M. Coombe; brown filly by Eton—Irma, to F. W. Arnold; bay colt by Eton—Tournament, to F. W. Arnold.

Bookmakers' fees for the autumn meeting were fixed at £20 per day, with 10s per day for the clerk; all applications for licenses to be in the hands of the secretary on or before Wednesday, April 8.

AUCKLAND TROTTING CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

On Saturday next the Auckland Trotting Club will make a commencement with the autumn meeting at Alexandra Park. A programme of eight events will be gone through, and as in all instances the acceptances are large, the prospect of some good trotting and exciting pony racing seems unusually good. There is plenty of time between now and next Saturday for the weather to clear up, but if it does not the track must prove holding, as over nine inches of rain have fallen in the last four weeks. Matters in the sporting line have been rather dull in Auckland for some time, so that in the event of a fine day the attendance should be large. In addition to the ordinary service, a number of extra cars will be run out to the park, where Mr. C. F. Mark and his staff may be relied upon to have everything quite up to date. The acceptances for the first day's events will be found in another column.

AVONDALE JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

The Avondale Jockey Club's autumn meeting will take place on April 29 and May 2. Attention is drawn to the fact that nominations for the Avondale Handicap of 200sovs, one mile and a-quarter; Autumn Handicap of 130sovs, one mile; Steeplechase Handicap of 70sovs, three miles; and Railway Handicap of 100sovs, six furlongs, close with Mr. H. H. Hayr, the secretary, to-morrow (Friday) evening at nine o'clock. General entries are due on the 17th inst.

COLOUR IN HORSES.

In Sir Walter Gilbey's book, entitled "Horse-breeding to Colour," just published, referring to the reason for the frequency of certain colours, and the decrease of others, it may be interesting to know that the Derby has been won by 34 chestnuts, 24 browns, 66 bays, one "bay or brown" (Voloyovski), one grey (Gustavus, 1821), and one black (Smolensko, 1813). Flying Dutchman (1849) is not included in the list. There seems to have been difficulty in defining his colour. Flying Dutchman is described as "probably the best racehorse whose colour most nearly approached black." According to a painting by Herring, in Lord Rosebery's possession, Flying Dutchman was black; but Sir Walter Gilbey says "Smolensko is the only black horse that has won the Derby."

ELEVATION AND THE DONCASTER HANDICAP.

So far as winning the Doncaster is concerned, I doubt his ability to do that with 9lb over weight-for-age (writes "Pilot" in the "Referee"), notwithstanding that his sprinting form is undoubtedly of a high class. The Doncaster is a race that generally favours some of the leniently treated members of the older division, and the only three-year-old who ever won with anything approaching weight-for-age on his back was Sir William, who carried 8.4. Good colt as was Sequence, he just failed with 8.5, and therefore it will surprise me if Elevation succeeds with 9.1. However, Elevation's presence will add interest to the weight-for-age races, and we shall see whether, as claimed by some New Zealanders, he is as great a sprinter as Mountain King.

HOUSE PICNIC.

The employees of Messrs. A. Cleave and Co., Ltd., held their annual picnic at Arkle's Bay on Saturday. The weather conditions were all that could be desired and a most enjoyable time was spent by all who attended. A programme of sports was gone through, the different events bringing out some large fields. The party left Auckland in the s.s. Orewa at 9.30, reaching their destination at a little after 12. Lunch over, pleasure was at once sought and in every case found. The sports proved a big attraction. Five started in the Ladies' Race. Miss Jeffries proved too fleet of foot for the rest of the contestants and

won by three yards. The Office Championship was responsible for an entry of 12 aspirants to fame. This event was run over about 170 yards, and proved about 100 yards too long for some of the more staid of the starters. The winner turned up in W. Hoare, P. Cleave being second. The Swimming Championship brought out six starters, of whom Goodhew proved the most speedy, Young second. The Married Men's Race was won by Goodhew, Gilling second. The Handicap Swimming Race saw six starters in place and resulted in E. Rutledge being first, Goodhew second, Hogan third. The Orewa left on her return journey at 5 o'clock, reaching town at 7.30 p.m., the popular opinion being that a first class day had been spent. Before the wharf was reached some speech making was indulged in. Mr. Brookes, on behalf of the employees, expressed the gratification of "all hands" at the day's outing, and hoped the picnic might be an annual one, especially thanking Mr. Cleave for his hearty co-operation. He paid special tribute to the excellent manner in which the secretary (Mr. Richards) had carried out his duties, he having practically all the arrangements to attend to. Mr. Cleave suitably responded and expressed a wish that the picnic would be the forerunner of many similar outings. Cheers were given for Mr. Cleave, for the secretary and members of the committee, the proceedings closing with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the "National Anthem."

THE WANGANUI JOCKEY CLUB'S WINTER MEETING.

The Wanganui Jockey Club's programme for the Winter Meeting will be found in this issue. The dates for the gathering are Saturday and Monday, 23rd and 25th May, and seven events will be run on each day. On the first the items are the Borough Handicap of 125 sovs., 6 furlongs; the Wanganui Steeplechase of 400 sovs., 3 miles; the Electric Hack Handicap of 100 sovs., 5 furlongs; the May Hurdles of 150 sovs., 1½ miles; Kaitoke Hack Hurdles of 100 sovs., 1½ miles; Connolly Handicap of 250 sovs., one mile and a distance; Hack Flat Handicap of 100 sovs., 6 furlongs.

On the second day the events to be decided are the Winter Oats of 150 sovs., one mile; the Grandstand Steeplechase of 150 sovs., 2* miles; the Balgownie Hack Handicap of 100 sovs., one mile and a distance; Century Hurdle Race of 300 sovs., two miles; Rata Hack Hurdles of 100 sovs., one mile five furlongs; Final Steeplechase of 120 sovs., 2 miles; Farewell Hack Flat Handicap, 6 furlongs. It will thus be seen that the stake money has been apportioned with a very generous hand, so that Mr. William Hall, the secretary, should have a hearty response to the invitation sent out. Owners should take the fact that nominations for all events must be made not later than Friday, April 24.

THE NORTH N.Z. COURSING CLUB

With the days closing in and the winter drawing on apace the coursing season will soon be here. This is one of the very oldest sports in existence, being held in high favour in the days of the Roman Empire, when the rules were not altogether dissimilar to those now in vogue. All through the long centuries in England it has held sway and now is a popular winter pastime, the meetings being attended by everyone from the King downward. Although it is booming in Australia and in the South, yet in Auckland not a great deal of headway has been made of late years. This is somewhat remarkable, because the meetings at Middlemore Park are always well managed, while as the hares run strongly and generally escape the sport is exciting. It had been intended to open the season this month, but owing to the weather in the South having been against the trapping of hares and their satisfactory shipment, the North New Zealand Coursing Club have decided to put it off until May. At this meeting two stakes will be decided—the North New Zealand Challenge Stakes and the Maiden Stakes. For the Challenge Stakes the following owners have taken out nominations:—F. Baker (2), A. J. Searle (2), Martin Taylor (2), Tapper Brothers, W. H. Morton, J. Harper, P. Gordon, C. George, E. J. Honiss, W. T. Knight, R. J. Elliott, S. Barnes, J. Witheradge, jun., Parkes and Porter, A. Gordon, J. Smith, F. McReynolds, P. Russell, T. Crisp, and V. P. Hansen one each.

The Maiden Stakes attracted an entry of 29, as follows:—F. Baker (3), Martin Taylor (2), C. Charlton (2), J. Sheran, A. Byron, J. Gilbert, A. J. Searle, J. Porter, A. Sparkes, W. Hunt, M. Freney, J. R. Baker, A. Menzies, D. Howard, F. McReynolds, J. Homan, P. Gillespie, G. Mills, J. Bowden, F.

Donaldson, N. Hunter, J. Quinlan, Tapper Brothers, A. D. Macready, S. Barnes, J. McNaughton one each. With 52 dogs engaged some fine trials should result.

A SURPRISE FOR RACEGOERS.

The chief topic of conversation with racing men during the week has been the cancelling by the Auckland Racing Club Metropolitan Committee of the licenses granted to Ben Deeley and J. Conquest. This is the outcome of the January Meeting of the Whangarei Racing Club, when it is said certain things were done of what is known in racing slang as a "red hot" nature. As the committee had statements from owners and others, and a report from a sub-committee to go upon, it may be taken for granted that the case must have looked black indeed to warrant such drastic action. As unfortunately it was heard in camera, one cannot say definitely what the nature of the charges were, and it seems a pity that the whole affair could not have been made public. It is said that the riders were given no opportunity of refuting the charges made against them, but for the sake of fairness it is to be hoped this was not the case. The Committee of the Auckland Racing Club are not at all likely to condemn a man and take away his living without giving him an opportunity of defending himself, because such a course of procedure would be entirely contrary to common justice. What has constituted a very general surprise with racegoers is the inclusion in the disqualification of Deeley. If there was one jockey more than another riding in Auckland against whom the breath of suspicion was never raised, it was the popular light-weight. In fact, he had made a reputation as a straight goer of a somewhat enviable nature. "Deeley wont ride a stiff 'un," was a remark one constantly heard in the paddock, and the fact of him being in the saddle meant many extra investments on his mount. Exactly how many rides he has had this season it is hard to say, but the fact that he has steered no less than fifty-eight to victory would seem to go a long way in extending him from the list of the strong armed fraternity. The fact that the committee have had the evidence to go on, and the public have not, cannot be got over however, so Deeley must be likened to another fallen public idol. It is probable that both he and Conquest will appeal to the Racing Conference against the disqualification.

GOOD IF TRUE.

A Belgian veterinary surgeon reports that he has cured confirmed glanders by giving at first five and then three granules of the sulphate of arseniate of strychnine every two hours for ten days, the dose then being reduced to two granules. A solution of sulphate of zinc was injected into the nostrils, and the farcy balls stutzered. There had been no return of the disease for a year at the time the report was made. Distinguished veterinarians, however, seem to think the disease liable to reappear at any time, and that the only safe course is to kill an animal known to be suffering from this malady. It is to be hoped, however, that experiments with the treatment of the Belgian will be continued until the truth is demonstrated beyond doubt. If the results are confirmatory, the life of many a valuable horse may be saved.—"Breeder and Sportsman."

NOTES.

(By The Judge.)

Boxes have been booked for Moe-raki and Mahutu at the Harp of Erin.

Some little difficulty was experienced in shipping the Soult—Creecy colt on Monday, but he was ultimately got on board the Manuka, and is now on his way to Sydney.

Artillerie is an almost certain visitor to Ellerslie this month.

Bookmakers must apply to Mr. Mark for their licenses to bet at the A.T.C. meeting before 2 p.m. on Friday.

Gay Paris pulled up lame after a gallop last week, a bit of bad luck for his owner with the Easter meeting just ahead.

The smart two-year-old Gravitation ricked himself a few days ago, and will not carry silk again this season.

Mattie MacGregor, who ran second in the Liverpool Grand National, belongs to the ex-Sydney sportsman, Mr. William Cooper, whose orange and white colours were well-known at Randwick a few years ago. The Lawyer, who finished third in the big jumping event, died in his box the same night.

The New Zealander Maranui has won another race in Sydney, carrying off the Rosehill Cup from twelve others. He won very easily by three lengths.

The victory of Major Douglas Penant's Rubio in the Liverpool Grand National Steeplechase must have come as a surprise, as he was not mentioned among the fancied candidates when the mail left Home. It is said he was sold as a yearling for 15 guineas, and after being used as a hunter, broke down, being subsequently driven in harness.

The Seaton Delaval filly Sunbonnet won the March Handicap on the opening day at Masterton, but on the second day got a bad start, and just failed to reach Platypus.

The Lupin gelding Lupulite is evidently a sprinter above the average. At Timaru last week he carried welter weights to victory on three occasions. Such a flier will be a good advertisement for Lupin, who is one of the Government stallions.

Ellerslie is looking particularly bright and green after the rain, but the tracks are still rather heavy.

Most of the country brigade have now returned to headquarters, the Waikato fixtures having been run through.

Mr. G. F. Moore has had the misfortune to lose his Multiform—Guiding Star yearling colt.

Acceptances for the events on the first day of the A.R.C. meeting must be made by to-morrow week.

Scotty is nicely treated in the Brighton Hurdles with 9st 8lb. If really himself he should run well.

The Auckland Trotting Club's meeting commences on Saturday.

Nominations for the Takapuna Winter Meeting are due on April 24.

THE STRAND CAFE

T. KING, Proprietor.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

BUSINESS MEN and VISITORS are notified that their mid-day meal from now onward may be looked forward to with a feeling of pleasure.

The STRAND CAFE have just had installed into their roomy premises at the Strand Arcade an extensive *Electric Lighting Plant*, which, whilst answering its purposes for giving a beautifully mild light keeps the room perfectly cool.

Our "FOUR-COURSE" DINNER at One Shilling is positively the best Dinner in town, the cheery and obliging attention of the Attendants, and the advantages of the *Smoke Room* until Dinner is digested, is a factor that goes a long way to make a pleasant break in the day's toil for the busy business man.

OUR ROOMS can seat 500 comfortably. You will get the best of attention, and we guarantee you satisfaction. What more could you ask for.

COME and DINE at the STRAND CAFE to-day, and you will continue to do so.
(Entrance from either the Arcade or Queen Street.)

The Strand Cafe
STRAND ARCADE, AUCKLAND.