

Loch Fyne has been showing fairly good form at the country meetings, and has won several races lately. He should be in good form for the Great Northern meeting.

Final payment for the Easter Handicap is due on the 10th inst.

Handicaps for the opening day of the A.R.C. meeting should appear tomorrow.

Capital entries have been received for the Patea R.C. Easter Monday meeting. Handicaps are due on Monday.

The New Zealand champion, Elevation, arrived in Sydney on Tuesday, all well.

The question troubling owners just now is where are the jockeys to come from when fields are large.

The general entries for the Auckland Racing Club's coming meeting totalled 286, a big improvement on last year, while 53 are in the three big races.

INTER-PROVINCIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

CANTERBURY.

CHRISTCHURCH, April 1.

Owing to the Telegraph Department making a loss over the telegraph office at the summer meeting of the C.J.C., the office will not be opened at the Easter meeting. This decision will prevent a lot of money being wired away from the course just before a race is decided.

Acceptances for the Great Easter and Autumn Handicaps close on Friday next, and there should be a capital response by South Island owners, but in view of the Auckland meeting, several well-known Northern horses will be missing from both races.

Orloff, a Canterbury Derby winner, who has been entered for several big races during the past year, but has not sported sick, figures in both the big Easter handicaps at Riccarton. Back to form, what a royal chance he would have in both races at the weight allotted him, 7st 2lb.

Rose Noble, Hilarity, Beckwell, and Nancy Stair, all runners at the South Canterbury meeting, did not improve their Great Easter Handicap chances by the form they showed at the Southern fixture.

Miss Mischief and Beneform were easily the two best two-year-olds seen out at South Canterbury, and there is very little to choose between these two youngsters, both of whom are capable of much improvement. They are bred well enough to win in any company.

What a fine sprinter Lupulite is when thoroughly well. He simply made hacks of the sprinters he met at Timaru, and wound up by scoring three wins, his respective weights being 10st 9lb, 10st 3lb, and 10st 10lb. In the Farewell Handicap he was giving away 4st 3lb to Portland, and just on 3st to Nancy Stair, who is not at all a bad filly. Lupulite bids fair to repeat the deeds of those well-known sprinters, Gold Spur and St. Denis, who used to carry all before them at the Southern meetings a few years ago.

I hear the Government stallion Lupin, sire of Lupulite, has several promising youngsters coming on, one or two already showing that they can gallop somewhat fast.

Lapland has escaped going through the season without winning a race, the Timaru Cup coming his way. Lapland's best performance this season was in the New Zealand Cup, when he got third to Frisco and Master Delaval. On the strength of this performance he was strongly fancied for subsequent races, but failed to run up to his owner's expectations. Lapland is not a brilliant horse, but when well placed pays his way. He won at the right time, and with 7st 7lb at the right time, and with 7s 7lb should keep the field busy in the Great Autumn Handicap—a mile and a half race suits him. Now that he has again struck form he should win again before the season closes.

Sir George Clifford, who invariably sends some of his horses to the big Northern meetings, has nominated Clanchattan, Glenculloch, Goldbeater, De Witte, Stratagem, Sister Anne, Flitaway and Miss Mischief for various events at Wellington. De Witte has since been sold, but all the others will run in the Chokebore colours. The team for Manawatu will consist



NO. 8.—MR. R. B. LUSK.

When the horses are lined up for a race at Ellerslie, if one glances at the judge's box there is sure to be seen the tall, athletic form of Mr. Robert Buller Lusk, who, like the boy with the marbles, is called Bob for short by his legions of friends. He is a son of Major Lusk, who distinguished himself during the fighting in the Waikato in the sixties. Bob was born in the Pukekohe district in 1868, and at a very early age showed his love for athletics of all kinds. He could always run a bit, and won many races at school. In the palmy days of the Auckland Amateur Athletic Club Bob was a veritable power in the land. Hurdling was his specialty, and he was one of the first to adopt the "three strides and over" method. It doesn't seem eighteen years ago that I saw the popular Auckland turn out in Sydney for the 120Yds Hurdle Championship of Australia, yet so it is. There were some fairly smart men engaged, but Bob proved the daddy of the lot, and won handily. Auckland had not commenced sweeping all before it in athletics at that time, and Lusk's fine performance was thought a good deal of. So well was he running about that time that he was asked to concede all sorts of starts over hurdles, but it was a difficult thing to keep him out of a race at the finish. The half-mile championship of Auckland was another event which went to Lusk's credit, as well as numerous other races.

The genial Robert was also a footballer "of credit and renown," and was always a tower of strength to his side. He generally played among the back division, either at fullback or in the threequarter-line, halfbacks, as they were then called. He represented Auckland against the New South Wales team which came here in 1886. Against them the Aucklanders were successful in all three matches, winning by 6—0, 14—4, 11—0. He also turned out for the province in the three following years.

It was in 1888 that Stoddart brought his famous team to New Zealand, and Lusk was one of the Auckland team to meet them. This was the team of which R. L. Seddon was captain. He was drowned at Newcastle, his untimely end being universally deplored. Four matches were played against Auckland. The Englishmen won the first by 6 points to 3, lost the second by 4 to nil, won the third by 3 points to nil, and drew the fourth with one point each, from which it may be concluded there was very

of Husbandman, Clanchattan, and Sister Anne. Sir Geo. Clifford is the best patron North Island clubs have from this part of the country.

Glenculloch will not be seen out until the Canterbury Easter meeting. He is bowling along in fine style just now, and if reserved for the Great Easter Handicap will be one of the hardest to beat for speed.

Fleetfoot is doing her work nicely, and appears to have thrown off her recent soreness. Her presence at Riccarton next month is being looked forward to with interest, but much disappointment is felt over Gravitation's mishap. Mr. Bidwill's colt was expected to fully extend the Clanranald filly in the Challenge Stakes.

The two-year-old colt by Nelson—Dudu, a full brother to Stratagem, has been sold by E. Cutts to Mr. A. Walker, of Feilding. The youngster will be sent up to his new home in a few days.

The North Canterbury races will take place at Rangiora on Thursday. The fields promise to be fairly good, but the quality of the horses engaged is only moderate.

The Soult mare Pas Seul ran very badly at Timaru last week, and seems to have gone all to pieces, as it is a long time since she won a race.

Handicaps for the Great Easter and Autumn Handicaps have not created much interest so far, backers preferring to wait until acceptances are made on Friday. With so many of the best horses engaged at both Ellerslie and Riccarton, it is hardly

little between the rival fifteens. One could write a good deal of the many gallant battles on the football ground of those days, and it seems hard to believe that twenty years have slipped away since they took place.

In 1890 Mr. Lusk crossed the Tasman Sea to Sydney, where he resided for some two years. So highly was he thought of over there, that he was picked to don the light blue jersey for New South Wales. On his return he went to practice his profession as a barrister down Taranaki way, and while living in the South represented that province, donning the amber and black jersey in 1892-3-4.

Bob has always been fond of the game of cricket. If memory serves me right it is some twenty-three years ago since I first saw him playing for the old Gordon Club, in its day a very powerful eleven. That's a long time ago, yet Bob is still an enthusiast at the game, and now plays for the Parnell eleven. Perhaps R. Neill is about the only one still playing first-class cricket who donned the flannels with Lusk in those far-off days. Fond as he is of the game, I doubt whether the subject of this article was ever quite so good as his cousins, for the name of Lusk is known on the cricket field from one end of the island to the other.

Bob used to be an expert in the gymnasium, and was, in fact, a fine all-round athlete. Nowadays time that was once given up to practice at the nets is devoted to gardening, and "when the roses bloom again" he will be able to show a fine collection at his pretty home at Parnell, where, by the way, are to be found more than one chip of the old block.

Some seasons back, when the Hon. E. Mitchelson resigned the position of judge, the Auckland Racing Club decided to appoint a stipendiary official, and Mr. Lusk was chosen from a number of others. The selection was a good one, for although often called upon to adjudicate in a close finish, the tall Auckland has invariably given his decisions promptly and accurately. As a result he have been spared any of those unsportsmanlike exhibitions which the papers are wont to describe as "a hostile demonstration against the judge." Every one who has met Bob knows him for a fine all-round sportsman and a good fellow, and as such he is fully entitled to a place in our "Men We Meet" gallery.

worth while criticising the weights until owners' intentions are made known. Marguerite, Gold Crest, King Billy and Dawn, four horses in the Auckland Easter Handicap, are engaged at Riccarton, but indications point to their owners going to Ellerslie.

Grandstand is doing an occasional gallop over the hurdles, and by the time the winter meetings come round should be a proficient jumper.

Crispinot is also jumping well, while another jumper in Slow Tom is doing steady work on the flat. Two fairly good gallops over six furlongs were put up by Buccleuch and Rose Noble on Saturday morning. Each horse went by himself and left the journey behind in 1m. 19s. Buccleuch is showing some of his old form.

The tracks are now in capital order, and are just right for horses with tender feet.

Stronghold and Probable are both galloping well, and should be ready to take part at the Easter meeting. Harvest and Ingleneuk are also on the tracks daily.

Local stables did fairly well at the South Canterbury meeting, Lapland, The Libyan, Gold Braid, Miss Mischief, Yesha, and Lady Disdain each winning a race.

OTAGO.

DUNEDIN, April 1.

Judging by the small number of fielders who paid for the privilege of betting at the South Canterbury J.C.

meeting, and the large number who were present but declined to pay up and don the bag, the metallicians are getting tired of paying the large fees demanded by jockey clubs. S.P. betting appears to be coming back again through the same cause.

The Southland mare Lady Zoia has been sold and will figure amongst the ponies at Wellington, when a 100 sovs is to be run on Easter Monday.

The hunter Albury has joined McKay's stable at the Forbury, and will probably be given a run at the Riverton meeting.

The South Canterbury meeting was a great financial success, the sum of £10,517 being registered during the two days by Mr. James and his staff, but even this amount would have been exceeded if investors were not so dilatory in making up their minds as to which horse was entitled to monetary support. We all back winners mentally, but that is not the way to become rich or poor.

The £10,517 invested on the totalisator at Timaru last week was a South Canterbury record. Last year the totals were:—Spring meeting, £6170; autumn meeting, £7636.

The C.J.C. made a commendable appointment when they selected Mr. R. O. Duncan as judge. His verdicts are promptly delivered, and he has proved himself the right man in the right place, so much so that other clubs could employ him, and by doing so give general satisfaction to their patrons.

The members of the Dunedin J.C. committee entertained Mr. J. Hazlett last week prior to that gentleman's departure for England.

The Tahuna Park Trotting Club will be in proud possession of a new track laid out on their own property by next season. A strong effort will be made to get the ground ready by next November, when a specially attractive programme will be rung up as a good send-off to the new course.

The Obligado filly Octave was made a hot pot for the four-furlong race won by Lupulite last week. She was slow away, and, in addition to getting a bad passage, had to run over a lot of ground. She was sent out again in the Flying Handicap, and her luck was on a par with that experienced in her first race on the second day. McCombe was in the saddle, and getting Octave well away on the rails, he managed to squeeze her home by a narrow margin. She did not appear to act with the dash she displayed at Dunedin, even when she was returned a winner.

Lupulite regained his lost laurels by his display of form at Timaru, and is evidently an improved horse to what he was when stripped at the Dunedin Cup meeting. In each of his three wins last week he finished well, but it was difficult to say how much he had in reserve at the end, as there was nothing present capable of giving him battle. He won the four and five furlongs races easily, and a break he obtained in the six

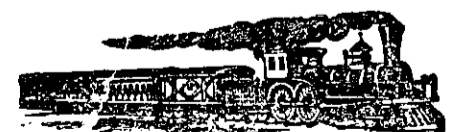
HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

Lessee . . Mr. C. R. Bailey.
Direction, Messrs. MacMahon.

THE SECOND SUPERB PROGRAMME THE SECOND SUPERB PROGRAMME

The Most Perfectly-presented Wonders of the Cinematograph, embraced by
**MACMAHON'S EXQUISITE PICTURES,
MACMAHON'S EXQUISITE PICTURES.**
An absolutely unparalleled array of the most Fascinating and Varied Subjects of the day—
**PICTURED COMEDY, FANTASY AND
DRAMATIC STORY.**
Superbly-illustrated Songs by
MISS LORRAINE TANSLEY.
A New and Fascinating Programme on
**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY,
MATINEE ON SATURDAY.**

SPECIAL TARIFF FOR LADIES—
Dress Circle and Reserved Stalls, 1s 6d;
Stalls, 1s.
General Admission—3s, 2s, and 1s.
No Early Door Charges.
Children half-price everywhere.
Box Plan at Wildman and Arey's.
Day Sales at H.M. Cafe.



NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS. EASTER HOLIDAYS.

Cheap excursion tickets will be issued from any station to any station from TUESDAY, 14th April, to MONDAY, 20th April, available for return up to and including WEDNESDAY, 20th May.

During the Easter Holidays an extra express train will leave Auckland at 10.35 a.m. daily (Sundays excepted) for Thames, Waihi, and Tauranui.

BY ORDER.