

furlongs race helped him to tangle up his opponents on that occasion. Lupite had backed out from the barrier, and just as he was walked into line the barrier shot up, with the result that it gave the Dunedin flyer what was practically a moving start. He made excellent use of the advantage, and raced clean away from his field, although his winning margin was only a bare length.

Lapland looked to the eye when stripped last week at Timaru than the Finland he'd ever previously noticed the Finland gelding. He looked bigish, but clean and hard, and ran out his mission like a racehorse.

The Multiform colt Beneform won the two-year-old race on the first day of the South Canterbury J.C. meeting, and if more use had been made of the advantage he obtained on the second day he would just about have squeezed home again as winner. He blew a bit after his first race, and still looks susceptible to improvement, and if he underwent a sound preparation it would not be astonishing to find him one of the best three-year-olds out next season. He is a racing big colt, showing lots of quality, and has both galloping ability and courage.

The farewell hop on the majority of race programmes marks the medium by which punters attempt to get even on a bad meeting, or perchance make a good one even better. This was particularly noticeable at the South Canterbury meeting, where the last race on the card was easily a record for the meeting, and the amount of money invested on the totalisator marks the largest sum ever invested on a single race at Timaru. Still, it is doubtful if the total (£1070) represented a six-and-eightpenny opinion on the race of each adult on the course. The anti-gamblers would make a lot of such increase, but even after allowing the bookmakers operating to hold fairish books, the amount of spendthrift money in the air would not represent a button of the coat of the South Canterbury public, who are charged with being the wealthiest community of the South Island.

WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON, April 1.

The executive of the Masterton Racing Club were quite recently bewailing the fact that no rains had fallen in the neighbourhood of their racecourse for several months and in consequence the course was reported caked and as hard as a macadamised road. The wails of the droughty officials were evidently given heed to, as prior to and on the first day of their autumn meeting, rain fell in torrents. This had the desired effect, so far as equines were concerned, but it sadly interfered with the attendance which on the first day, was of the most limited description. The bookmakers, however, came to the rescue, their contributions amounting to £226 10s on the first day and £354 on the second, making a total of £380 10s. This sum will more than make the totalisator deficit, and the club (thanks to the metallicians) will come out of the meeting very well indeed.

The racing was interesting and in the majority of instances exciting, Mr Harrigill's verdict in the hurdles, cup, and bracelet, being "won by a short head." The fields on the second day were also good and the races very open. The Club handicapper, Mr Pollock, being complimented upon the manner in which he had concealed the winner in the principal events the Autumn and Telephone Handicaps.

The Foxton owned gelding, Waitapu was the hero of the meeting. He carried 8st 13lb and ran a good honest race on the first day, finishing close to the placed horses. His effort on the second day was full of merit. He lost quite three lengths when the tapes flew up, and although burdened with 8st 11lb, the task of getting to his field was within his powers, and after a determined finish with Tangimoana, Waitapu won by half a length in 1min 44sec. Waitapu was only third favourite and in consequence his backers had a really good win.

Tangimoana and Chatterer each ran well and consistently during the meeting. Chatterer, however, had some difficulty in shaking off the attentions of Merrie Rose in the Cup, and up to the last stride, the issue was in doubt. Merrie Rose was again solidly supported on the second day, but she ran much below her first day's form and Chatterer easily defeated her for third place, although meeting Mr Knox's mare on worse terms.

Full Rate was a class by himself amongst the sprinters and his party were sanguine that he could annex the March Handicap on the first day. Sunbonnet, trained by the veteran trainer M. McGrath, was sent to the post in nice trim and when the business end of the seven furlongs was reached, the 19lb which Full Rate was conceding her, enabled the Seaton Delaval mare to draw away and win without much of an effort. The result was a turn up for the bookmakers as the owner and trainer had allowed the mare to run unbacked. Sunbonnet, although asked to carry an extra 19lb on the second day, put up a capital performance by finishing within a length of the winner, Platypus, after getting hopelessly (as it appeared) left. The winner, ridden by R. Hatch, got smartly away and under other circumstances would have had to be content with second honours.

Another good performance during the meeting was that of the Conqueror gelding Nuamai who (although not quite wound up) displayed great pace, and completely paralysed his opponents in the early stages of the two sprint hack events. Gold Crest's half-sister Ikon was runner up on the first day; whilst Conqueror—Blue and White) owned by the president of the Club (Mr C. F. Vallance) was the only one to make a race of it with Nuamai for the concluding event of the meeting. Had R. Hatch been as smart out of the tapes with Conqueror as he was earlier in the afternoon with Platypus, the stake would probably have gone to the credit of Mr Vallance. The minor events were not of sufficient interest to warrant them being chronicled at length in your columns further than to mention that Gaelic, Kelso, Ikon, Commander, Strathcona and Consolation, were stripped in good trim and will do their owner good service if properly placed during the balance of the season.

Mon Ami was taken to Masterton, but the heavy state of the "going" influenced her owner (Mr R. W. Paterson) not to run her at the meeting. All going well Mon Ami will be given a run in the Champion Hack Plate at the Manawatu Autumn meeting.

Mr Paterson, during his visit to Masterton purchased the Sou'-wester gelding Snip. The latter ran second in the first hurdles and should prove useful during the winter racing.

Mr Bidwill, owner of Elevation, was present at Masterton to see his filly Consolation run in the Dan Hack Handicap. The daughter of Bikenhead was slow to begin and although galloping on at the finish could do no better than race third to Nuamia and Ikon. While at Masterton Mr Bidwill mentioned that his 2-year-old colt, Gravitation, had met with an injury which would prevent his being again started during his 2-year-old career. It transpires that during a gallop (whilst the track was somewhat slippery), Gravitation ricked one of his joints, which subsequently filled, and his owner at once decided to cancel his autumn engagements with the view of seeing him alright for next season's 3-year-old classis races.

WANGANUI.

WANGANUI, April 1.

Wanganui sports who visited New Plymouth to attend the Taranaki Jockey Club's autumn meeting all agree that the gathering was a most successful one, the racing being the finest ever seen on the course. This must have been very gratifying to Mr George Morse, the club's handicapper, who was heartily congratulated by the stewards on the excellence of the work done by him.

Mr Jas. Bull purchased Irish Rifle during the progress of the Taranaki meeting, the price paid for the Musketry—Element gelding being £475 (and £25 out of the first win). Irish Rifle ran third

in the first, and second in the second Welter race.

Signor and Carissima won £225 for Mr G. F. Moore at the Taranaki meeting. The former gave a very good display in the Paul Memorial Handicap, in which he got home by a neck from Scotty. The son of Pilgrim's Progress—Ma Mie Rosette is a much improved colt, and should take some beating in the Great Autumn Handicap.

Nicotine, an inmate of R. Johnston's stable, was well supported by the Wanganuites for the Hack Scurry the first day at Taranaki, but the daughter of St. Clements—Rau Rau failed to run up to expectations. On the second day, however, she performed better, winning the Final Hack Flutter in good style. She had been doing capital work on the local track prior to going to New Plymouth, and was expected to score.

The yearling fillies purchased by Mr G. F. Moore, which arrived from Melbourne last week have been sent to the owner's station at Kai-Iur, where they will remain for about 12 months.

The gelding Snip (by Sou'-wester—Nator mare) has been sold by Mr R. Marshall for £120, and will be taken to Sydney.

The hurdler, Royal Blue, has been sold to Mr Con. Hammond for £150, and will in future be trained by A. Attwood at Feilding.

The lark has been kept going since the Wanganui meeting, and will be a competitor at the Manawatu gathering. The son of Nestor got a few pounds more than he was entitled to in the Longburn Handicap, but he is evidently going to be a starter. He heads the list of those left in at 8st 8lb.

On his running at the recent Wanganui meeting, Atahua appears to have been given an excellent chance in the Brighton Hurdles, as the son of Mahaki, with 10st 4lb on his back, should cut out a very fast two miles.

A number of local horses have been nominated for the Patea Racing Club's Easter Monday meeting which promises to be a big success, judging from the large number of entries received. The Club has acted wisely in appointing Mr James Coombe as starter.

It is more than likely that Bombardo, who is shortly to be sent to New South Wales, will be sold there. If not, the son of Hotchkiss will be brought back here. Mr W. Myles, his owner, intends to buy a Grafton stallion to take up stud duties here next season while in Australia.

An offer of 100 guineas was recently made and refused for a two year old colt by Bombardo out of a mare by Perkin Warbeck II. The colt is a nice looking one, and it will be strange indeed if he does not turn out a good one.

A popular win, so far as Wanganui sports are concerned was that gained by Anemone in the High Weight Hack at the Masterton meeting. The daughter of St. Cyr—Pourangi is owned by a gentleman who races as Mr H. Jeffrey's, and who is one of the most respected supporters of the turf on this coast. Anemone is trained by J. Belcher, and it is very pleasing to see him scoring a win or two with his charges, as he is a most painstaking trainer.

BOWLING.

Saturday afternoon proved almost perfect for bowling, the only fault being that, as a result of over three inches of rain which fell during the week, the greens were rather heavy.

Devonport played Epsom in a four-rink match, and won somewhat easily by 90 to 68. Lelievre, with a strong team, ran right away from McGowan, but the other three games were very closely contested, Devonport winning them all.

Devonport also tackled Richmond, and won by 90 to 71, a curiously similar result to the other inter-club match. Here it was Mason's four that had such a big majority, the other teams being evenly matched. O'Loughlin's four was the only Devonport team to lose during the afternoon, Bagnall winning for Richmond by a single point.

Rocky Nook and Grey Lynn tried conclusions in a four-rink match. On the Grey Lynn green two splendid games were fought, there being only one point difference, but on their own ground Rocky Nook raced rings round their opponents, winning on the aggregate by 25 points.

Two rinks, skipped by Ashton and Parry, went from Mount Albert to Remuera, and badly worsted the home side, winning by 48 to 27.

In a two-rink match Carlton defeated Otahuhu by 48 to 32.

The Auckland Club will play a 12-rink match against Ponsonby next Saturday.

Playing at Rocky Nook the Auckland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board beat the Medical Staff by 29 to 9. Dr. Pabst skipped the medicos.

In an eight-rink match Ponsonby just got home from Onehunga by 158 to 155.

Waihi defeated Te Aroha on Saturday at Paeroa by 92 to 78 in a five-rink match.

ATHLETICS.

GETTING READY FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES.

The English A.A.A. general committee have completed arrangements regarding the trial races for the Olympic Games. There was a previous conference between the English, Irish and Scottish A.A.A., at which it was arranged that the very best twelve should be selected for each of the Olympic contests, instead of four from each country, irrespective of their relative merit. This clears the ground for a team of abnormal strength in each event, and will meet with general approval (says an English authority). Irish and Scottish competitors will, therefore, be seen in the trial games of Shepherd's Bush on May 30, and these contests will therefore have a value second only to the Olympiad itself. It is notable that all British entries to the games will be made in the name of "Great Britain and Ireland." Trials are to be held at 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres, 800 metres, 1500 metres (running), 110 metres hurdles, 400 metres hurdles, 3200 metres steeplechase, standing broad and standing high jumps, running broad and running high jumps, hop step and jump, pole vault, throwing the hammer, putting the shot, tug of war, 3600 metres walk, throwing the discus in both the free style and that peculiar to the Greeks as used at Athens in 1906, and javelin in the free style and holding it in the middle.

WANGANUI JOCKEY CLUB.

PROGRAMME FOR WINTER MEETING, SATURDAY AND MONDAY, 23rd and 25th MAY, 1908.

OFFICERS:

President: Dr. Earle. Vice-President: H. N. Harrison. Timekeeper: A. E. T. Nixon. Judge: W. H. Hartgill. Starter: J. Coombe. Handicapper, Geo. Morse. Clerk of Scales: H. M. Speed. Clerk of Course: G. T. Lynch. Hon. Surgeon: Dr. Hatherly. Hon. Veterinary Surgeon: Maxwell Edgar. Stewards: President, Vice-President, and Treasurer (ex officio), and Messrs. Jas. Watt, E. A. Campbell, G. Marshall, James Higgle, D. Campion and Allan Cameron. Committee: E. A. Campbell (Chairman), President and Hon. Treasurer (ex officio), and Messrs. Allan Cameron, D. Campion, James Higgle, H. F. Hole, G. Marshall, James Higgle, J. F. Cutland, H. M. Speed, R. Russell, and C. G. Russell, Hon. Treasurer, J. H. Nixon, Secretary, W. Hall.

FIRST DAY.

SATURDAY, 23rd MAY, 1908.

1. BOROUGH HANDICAP of 125 sovs.; second horse to receive 15 sovs., and third horse 10 sovs from the stakes. Distance, six furlongs. Nomination, 1 sov.; acceptance, 2 sovs. To start at 12 noon.
2. WANGANUI STEEPLECHASE HANDICAP of 400 sovs.; second horse to receive 40 sovs., and third horse to receive 10 sovs. from the stakes. Over the Wanganui Steeplechase course; distance, about three miles. Nomination, 1 sov.; acceptance, 3 sovs. To start at 12.45 p.m.
3. ELECTRIC HACK HANDICAP of 100 sovs.; second horse to receive 15 sovs., and third horse 5 sovs. from the stakes. Distance, five furlongs. Nomination, 1 sov.; acceptance, 1 sov. To start at 1.30 p.m.
4. MAY HURDLE HANDICAP of 150 sovs.; second horse to receive 15 sovs., and third horse 10 sovs. from the stakes. Distance, about one mile and three-quarters; over seven flights of hurdles, 3ft. 6in. in height. Nomination, 1 sov.; acceptance, 2 sovs. To start at 2.10 p.m.
5. KAITOKE HACK HURDLE HANDICAP of 100 sovs.; second horse to receive 15 sovs., and third horse 5 sovs. from the stakes. About one mile and three-quarters. Over seven flights of hurdles, 3ft. 6in. in height. Nomination, 1 sov.; acceptance, 1 sov. To start at 2.45 p.m.
6. CONNOLLY HANDICAP of 250 sovs.; second horse to receive 40 sovs., and third horse 10sovs from the sakes.



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