



RACING.



RACING CALENDAR.

SEASON 1907.

FIXTURES.

May 6, 7—Hawke's Bay J.C.
 May 6, 7—Marlborough R.C.
 May 13, 14—Ashburton County R.C.
 May 13 and 14—Egmont R.C.
 May 23, 25—North Otago J.C.
 May 23, 25—Takapuna J.C.
 May 23, 25—Wanganui J.C.
 May 30, June 3 and 6—Auckland R.C.
 June 3 and 4—Dunedin J.C.

NOMINATIONS.

May 8—A.R.C. general entries
 WEIGHTS ARE DUE.

May 1—A.R.C. special events
 May 8—Takapuna J.C.
 May 9—Wanganui J.C.
 May 15—A.R.C.

ACCEPTANCE.

May 8—A.R.C. special events
 May 15—Takapuna J.C.
 May 15—Wanganui J.C.
 May 22—A.R.C.

DEATH OF MR. G. G. STEAD.

The death of Mr. George Gatenby Stead, which occurred last week, removes from our midst the most prominent figure the New Zealand racing world has ever known. Born in London in 1841 he came out to the colony in 1866, and went to reside in Canterbury, where he has lived ever since. During that long period Mr. Stead was associated with all sorts of business enterprises, and having both Scottish and Yorkshire blood in his veins, his native shrewdness enabled him to amass a large fortune. Racing was his chief hobby, and for the last forty years he has followed the sport of kings. How he succeeded may be gleaned by looking through the Turf Register, for among the list of owners of winners no name appears so frequently as that of the deceased sportsman. In the last issue of this paper appeared an account of Mr. Stead and his connection with the turf in the colonies. Even as it was written he had answered "Adsum" to the last great roll-call. His death means an irreparable loss to the sport in the Dominion, for, besides doing an immense amount of good in the improvement of our bloodstock, he was a fearless speaker in its defence when the sport of racing was assailed by the modern fanatical spoil sports. Mr. Stead believed, as do most people who have given the matter serious consideration, that when properly governed, racing is beneficial to the community, because it not only gives work to an immense number of people, but in addition is by far the greatest factor in improving the breed of horses, an asset the value of which can scarcely be overestimated. Mr. Stead gave very practical proof of this by frequently importing from England and elsewhere the best-bred horses he could secure. Among the most famous of these were Leolinus, Cadogan, Apremont and Splendor, a quartette of stallions who have stamped their names on every page of the Stud Book. Quite a host of thoroughbred mares were brought out from time to time, and in many other ways did Mr. Stead show his practical interest in the sport which he loved so well. He had a special weakness for winning what are generally known as "classic" races, and in this respect he was quite extraordinarily successful. For instance, he won the C.J.C. Derby thirteen times, the G.N. Derby three times, the C.J.C. Oaks nine times, and the C.J.C. Champagne Stakes fifteen times. In this latter event his horses had the remarkable record of winning ten times in succession. He did not care so much for handicap races, but won an immense number, including the New Zealand Cup three times, the Auckland Cup three times, the Dunedin Cup three times, and the Wellington Cup four times. On several occasions horses carrying the famous yellow and black colours competed in Australia, winning against the best that could be brought against them. From one end of the Dominion to the other Mr. Stead was known, and wherever he was known he was re-

spected. He will be greatly missed when the next Auckland Cup meeting rolls round, for he was ever a welcome visitor to Auckland during the summer meeting and at the yearling sales. 'Twill be many a long day before the squire of Yaldhurst is forgotten by sportsmen. Truly by his death a prince of the racing track has crossed the Great Divide.

THE AVONDALE JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

It was a beautiful afternoon for the conclusion of the Avondale Jockey Club's Autumn meeting on Saturday, and as a result a very large number of people journeyed out to the western suburb, the special trains being densely thronged, while the road was alive with vehicles. All the arrangements were admirably carried out by Mr. H. H. Hayr and his staff, everything being well attended to, the whole meeting going off without a hitch of any sort, there being an entire absence of protests, foul riding, accidents, hostile demonstrations, and the like. Mr. O'Connor was in fine form at the starting barrier, Mr. Foley was again in the judge's box, and Handicapper Wynyard's efforts brought about some good racing. Although the totalisator figures for the day, viz., £8658 10s, were well ahead of last year, yet the total for the meeting (£14,243) showed a decrease of £2590. Fifteen bookmakers were operating, the license fees for the meeting amounting to £367.

Racing was resumed with the Maiden Hurdles, one mile and three-quarters, and with several absentees the issue was left to eight to contest, and of these Montigo and Te Rahui were favourites. From a good start Pukekohe was first to show, but he was immediately supplanted by Landlock, who paced the field into the straight, where Te Rahui was his nearest attendant. This pair were eight lengths ahead of Montigo passing the stand, with the others in straggling order. Round the back Julian sent Montigo along, and he was nearly upsides with Landlock at the home bend. The Flintlock gelding was full of running, however, and he drew away in the straight, winning by three lengths from Montigo, with Miss Crespin twenty lengths off third.

Ten faced the music in the Flying Handicap, four furlongs, the popular picks being Lucio and Haldane. The start was a good one, but Mighty Atom finding his feet quickest, was soon two lengths ahead of the field, and he led round the bend from Lady French, Kirsty and Stylish. It was a fine race to the judge's box, but the pony stalled off his bigger rivals in great style, winning by a length and a-half from Stylish, with Kirsty and Lady French in close order.

Punters generally seized on Imprius as a really good thing for the Second Pony Handicap, five furlongs, and he was made a very hot favourite of the six runners. The start was a good one, and the field ran bunched to the home turn, where Octoroon was showing in front. At the distance the favourite came through, and finishing very fast won by two lengths from Octoroon, who beat Ngakapa by a length.

Then came the big event, the Autumn Handicap, one mile, and of the eight runners Leonator was sorted out as the gem of the collection at the weights. After some delay Mr. O'Connor sent them away well, Miss Winnie immediately showing in front. At the six-furlong post the order was Miss Winnie, Celerity, Tui Cakobau, and Te Aroha. The Leolantis mare was still sailing gaily along in front, and as she was still there when heads were turned for home the opinion was freely expressed that the crack sprinter would last out the mile. At the distance Leonator started to close the gap, and fifty yards from home he was alongside the mare, beating her home by a length and a-half. Certainty was a close third, Celerity fourth, Delegate fifth, and Te Aroha last.

On paper Rarata looked a good bet for the Nursery Handicap, six fur-

longs, and he was made a warm favourite. Jumping well away he led by over a length to the distance, where Rimlock caught him, and in a punishing finish beat the son of Eton by nearly two lengths, with Osgodby a close third.

The Steeplechase, three miles, is always a popular event, and for it eight went to the post. Tui and Silica carried most weight of metal, none of the others being much fancied. When Mr. O'Connor gave them the word "go" Kapaku went to the front and led past the stand from Matakokiri, with Tui and Silica last. Running down the back Cinque showed the way to Matakokiri, but at the jump near the straight the latter ran off, treating Burns to a "purler." Kapakapa drew out, and at the stand was leading Cinque by four lengths, with Pierre, Tui, and Good Faith in close order. At the back Kapakapa was still sailing along in the van, the next four being bunched. As they turned for home Kapakapa's victory was loudly announced, and he sailed over the last hurdle three lengths ahead of the favourite. When it was all too late Deebie brought Pierre with a great rush, but although he got to within a length and a-half of the winner he could not effect the impossible. Tui was three lengths off third, Good Faith fifth, Silica sixth, while Bullsworth walked in.

Eight was the main in the Mount Roskill Handicap, six furlongs. This was looked upon as fairly open, Stylish having most tickets rung on her, while Waitotahi was also well supported. The despatch was a good one, Stylish just leading a bunch. At the home turn the San Remo filly was still running in front, with Azoff closing on her. The pair fought out a good duel all the way home, but Azoff carried too many guns for the mare. "Daylight" was third, for fully eight lengths separated Stylish from Waitotahi, while Sir Rupert was fourth and Escamillo fifth.

A very enjoyable meeting was brought to a close with the Waitakere Handicap, six furlongs, Uranium, Tauriki, and Lochbuhie being in as good request as anything. It was very open, however, and quite a number were stoutly supported, punters going for a recovery. Run as it was in the dusk, the colours were a little difficult to pick out. Uranium and Lochbuhie were in the first flight down the back and into the straight. Inside the distance Lochbuhie looked a sure winner, but Whitaker bringing Foremost with a great rush, he got up in time to win by a neck. Tauriki was third, Dogger Bank fourth, and Uranium fifth.

WELLINGTON RACING CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

The Wellington Racing Club's autumn meeting opened last Wednesday in favourable weather. With barely a full week between the various Easter race meetings and that of the Wellington Racing Club it was not anticipated that there would be a record muster of horses at Trentham for the autumn gathering. When thirteen of the best milers in New Zealand were saddled up for the Thompson Handicap, it became obvious that the contest was to be no less interesting than any of its predecessors. Backers looked to the Porirua stable and the Hon. J. D. Ormond's pair to furnish the winner, and the quartette representing the two stables were freely supported both with the tote and the metallicians. The owner of Sea King was, however, fairly sanguine, while Sunbonnet and Aboriginal had a host of loyal followers, particularly amongst the Wairarapa visitors. Indeed, when the field lined up at the barrier, every horse engaged in the race had a host of anxious backers on venterhooks.

The field were got away on even terms by Mr Piper and at the end of two furlongs Sea King was just showing in front with Gold Crest and Sunbonnet close on his heels. With three furlongs to go Dawn joined Gold Crest, and the pair were called upon by their riders to improve the pace. Zimmerman Tangimoana, Marguerite and Stratagem, were at this stage being hard ridden, but the distance saw Gold Crest and Dawn beaten,

and the race was then left to the three light-weights—Sunbonnet, Sea King and Aboriginal. The first named pair fought out a great race and finally flashed past the judge locked together, with Aboriginal close up, Stratagem fourth and Dawn fifth. The contest was the most exciting yet seen at Trentham, and supporters of the dead-heaters cheered wildly when the numbers were hoisted side by side.

The North Island Challenge Stakes was looked upon as a good thing for the best of Sir Geo. Clifford's pair, Glenculloch or Husbandman. Carissima and Formative were not taken into consideration, but those who had seen Diabolo race at Auckland entrusted the son of Stepniak with their investments. Young Hatch got the black colt going smartly, and at the end of four furlongs he obviously had the field in trouble, and running on won nicely by three lengths. Glenculloch ran below his best form, whilst Husbandman, who finished behind Carissima (9st 11lb) was clearly not in the humour for galloping. Mr J. Monk, owner of Diabolo, was the recipient of many congratulations and hopes were expressed that his colt would follow in the footsteps of Achilles.

The minor events provided exciting racing, and several good dividends were returned. The Conqueror gelding Toa Tuhi beat a useful lot of horses in the Waiwetu Handicap, of which Waipaku and All Guns were the most fancied, but neither were placed.

Aorangi followed up his Feilding victory by easily annexing the First Hurdles. Repulse made a good showing, but Playmate ran behind his field and returned to the bird-cage very lame. Sea King was withdrawn from the Railway Handicap in favour of his stable mate Cross Battery. The five runners were very evenly supported, Motoa being just a shade better backed than Cross Battery, whilst Martyrium, Truganini and Ballarat were solidly supported. The latter was slow to move when the barrier went up and lost a couple of lengths. Truganini's rider made the best of his light impost and ran past the distance a length and a half to the good. Martyrium was early in trouble, but Motoa came strongly in the last furlong and just got up in time to snatch a narrow victory from the light-weight by a bare nose. Cross Battery and Ballarat were a couple of lengths away.

The reputation of Sir Geo. Clifford's Clanranald filly Flitaway, scared several owners out of the Plunket Nursery, and only Artillerie and Roosevelt were saddled up to oppose the Canterbury representative. Artillerie was slow at the barrier, whilst Flitaway jumped off with a couple of lengths advantage. The Royal Artillery filly put up a good fight and inside the distance Flitaway's rider had to shake his mount up, but eventually won comfortably by a length.

The hack events did not produce large fields, but no exception could be taken to the quality of the runners, which included the fashionably bred Monami (Soult—Satanella), Sir Frisco (San Francisco—Wai-temata), Penates (Ruenalf—Housewife), Taitoko (Stepniak—Whirlpool), the Libyan (Phoebus Apollo), Osiris (San Fran-ismene), Wharekura (Eton—Irma), Blue Ribbon (Blue Jacket—Yattaghan), and Wailithe (Lethe—Wairoa). The latter, a nice out of a mare, put up a good performance in the Silverstream Hack Handicap, and defeated a good favourite in North Pole (Birkenhead—Norsemaid). Sir Frisco was somewhat lucky in his victory as Penates swerved badly half a furlong from the judge's box and the half-brother to Porirua got up in time to catch the judge's eye.

SECOND DAY.

Beautiful autumn weather prevailed at Trentham for the second day's racing, and a splendid attendance graced the stand enclosures. The racing was again interesting and with the management of the meeting in excellent hands, the club's patrons appeared to be experiencing a really enjoyable afternoon. Sen Sim, Royal Blue and Aeolus, three fresh candidates opposed Repulse and Te Kanui, the pair who filled second and third place on the first day. Sen Sim's admirers voted the race all over, whilst Aeolus, on the strength of his capital showing at Wairarapa, was solidly supported. Repulse and Royal Blue however had the finish to themselves, the former—the out-