

suggested that if by rule of the Conference or mutual agreement between clubs such clashing could be avoided, it would be in the interest of the sport.

Another matter which deserved attention of Conference was the undue proportion of five and six-furlong scrambles in many programmes. A suggestion made by Mr. Grigg and referred to the committee was that a memorial race should be established, and it will probably find a place on the November programme.

Canton and Euruss have returned from their unsuccessful trip to Wanganui, rather the worse for wear. The former was badly knocked about, and will need a spell.

Matters are very quiet at Riccarton, the majority of trainers being away at Dunedin.

Canterbury will be well represented at the Dunedin meeting, which opens there to-morrow, over twenty horses being engaged from headquarters, and it will be surprising if they do not capture a good share of the prize money.

Sir George Clifford's team, including Cannie Chiel, went on after the Oamaru meeting, and Clanchattan has gone down to join them.

Cotton took Petrovna, Silkweb, Chief Lochiel and Harvest down on Friday.

Slow Tom and Grandstand are engaged in jumping events, and the latter has been shaping really well in his schooling work.

Cross Battery, who won a double at Ashburton, is engaged in the principal events at the Otaki meeting.

Taggart took the Stepiak mare North on Thursday. On her Ashburton form she should be very hard to beat.

Among the latest aspirants for jumping honours are Kelp and Farley Grove, the former shows very promising style, and should develop into a capable fencer.

The New Zealand Cup nominations are due to-night, and with their publication sports will have something to gossip over and doubtless lose money over trying to pick the winner.

Speculation as to what would be done with horses owned by the late Mr Stead has been finally settled by the announcement that they will all be submitted to auction during the Grand National week. There are over seventy horses to be sold.

WANGANUI.

WANGANUI, June 1.

At a committee meeting of the Marton Jockey Club held on Wednesday night the programme for the September meeting was drawn up. The stakes were increased by 200 sovs., making a total of £1140 for the two days. The dates to be submitted for the annual meeting are 2nd and 3rd September, 1908, and in view of a second permit being granted, the 26th and 27th February, 1909.

The Wanganui Jockey Club's Winter Meeting, which commenced so well on Saturday, 23rd May, was brought to a successful conclusion on the Monday. The weather, which was well nigh perfect on Saturday, was decidedly unpleasant on the second day, as rain fell steadily nearly all through, but this did not prevent a very satisfactory crowd attending, nor did it interfere much with the quality of the sport provided, which was of the most interesting and en-

He tried Port Hacking after fish,
But only caught a cold.
He said, "Atchoo! By jove, I wish
I'd done as I was told.
This is indeed a Hacking Cough.
Good name it's got, I'm sure!"
But next day he was right enough
Through Woods' Great Peppermint
Cure.

joyable description. The acceptances were again good, and some excellent racing was witnessed in most of the events. At this stage it is not necessary to refer at any great length to the different events, but a few of the most interesting features of the day's sport may be commented upon. There were twelve bookmakers' licensed inside and a like number outside, and the sum of £9301 was put through the machine, making £11,140 for the meeting, as against £23,360 last year—a falling off of £4585.

Waipu's running in the Century Hurdles was in marked contrast to the form he displayed in the Hack Hurdles on the opening day, when he quite failed to make anything like a decent showing. On Monday, however, he shaped like the really good hurdler that he is, coming at the business end with a splendid effort and winning fairly easily from Compass, another gelding which gave a much better display than on the first day. The stewards held an inquiry into Waipu's running, and the explanation given by the Torpedo gelding's connections was considered satisfactory. It may be that the public would have been satisfied also had they heard the explanation, but the inquiry was not open to the Press, so that people have to be content with the assurance that a good excuse was offered for the remarkably strong reversal of form. On the first day Waipu was the favourite, but he was never in the hunt, so that it is no wonder his performance on the Monday was a staggerer to followers of form. It is stated that the owner had a good bet on his horse on the first day.

Those behind The Stake had a good win over The Officer gelding's victory on the Saturday, but they put in so heavily on the gelding in the Century Hurdles that they probably did not profit much by their visit here.

Though The Dane did not run any too well in the Hack Hurdles on the Monday, the St. Clement's gelding jumped nicely, and with more experience is likely to win a hurdle race or two.

The suggestion has been thrown out by "Achilles" in the local "Herald" that the Wanganui Jockey Club should strike out the two small steeplechase events on the programme of their winter meeting, and substitute an open flat handicap event and one Steeplechase with good prize money attached. If this were done probably more horses would be nominated for the Wanganui Steeplechase on the first day, as there would be a chance for them winning a decent prize on the second day, whereas at present it is really not worth while starting a good horse in either of the concluding day's steeplechases.

It is also suggested that if the May Hurdles were run on the second day and the Century decided on the first day, bigger fields and better racing would be witnessed. From what can be gathered the proposals put forth are likely to be adopted; at any rate the general idea is that owners of jumpers would like to see the club make the experiment.

The New Zealand Trotting Association has given the proposed Wanganui Trotting Club its quietus, at least for the time being, by refusing to grant its application for registration. The club was asked to apply again in six months.

Some of the cross-country riders who have been over the Wanganui steeplechase course are inclined to think that the hencoop which brought Arapura down in the big steeple, when Fahey was fatally injured, is rather too formidable an obstacle for horses which have already raced over 2½ miles. The jump is just four feet high, and is of course very solid. However, perhaps, if the hencoop were shifted from its present position—just at a corner—it would be much safer. It has often been said of late that the local steeplechase course is too easy to negotiate, that the jumps are practically no more formidable than in a hurdle race.

It is generally agreed that Mr Geo. Morse has never done better work than he did in connection with the late W.J.C. Meeting, during which his handicapping was responsible for capital fields and some of the finest racing and best finishes ever seen here. It was a splendid meeting, and it is good to know that the club will have a satisfactory balance to the profit account in connection with the gathering.

The form shown by Tilson, Kaipetipeti, Faro, and Moosten over the big fences at Waanganui was very promising indeed, and one would probably not be far out in prophesying that the two former will prove two of the best 'chasers seen out for a long time.

The hurdler General Peel has changed hands. The Linstock gelding is quite sound, and should prove a bargain to his new owner, even though the latter paid a fairly substantial price for him.

Joe Stanley, the well-known local cross country rider, is leaving Wanganui for Auckland, where he has secured an engagement with C. Weal. Joe is not only a really good rider but he is one of the best behaved lads one could wish to drop across. He is an artist at schooling beginners over hurdles and fences, and should do well in the North.

Considerable interest was taken in a trotting match decided on the local racecourse last Thursday (the 28th May) between Messrs W. J. Aynsley and C. B. Giesen's horses over two miles. In the 95 seconds Aynsley's horse had covered half a mile, but a little later on tore off both front shoes, and was brought to a standstill. Going on again, Giesen's horse managed to get up 100 yards from home, and going on won easily. On returning to the stable the winner suddenly lay down and died without a struggle. He was a valuable animal, worth at least £100. A lot of money changed hands over the result.

HAWKE'S BAY.

NAPIER, June 2.

After a postponement from Monday, owing to very unfavourable weather, the newly-constituted Hawke's Bay Trotting Club held their inaugural meeting on the Waipukurau racecourse on Wednesday. The sky was overcast and threatening for the greater part of the day, but fortunately the rain held off and some good sport was enjoyed. The postponement injuriously affected the attendance, and there were probably less than 500 people on the ground. The stewards did all that was possible to ensure the enjoyment of their patrons, and are to be congratulated on the success achieved under the unpropitious circumstances. There was no totalisator on the ground, but ten bookmakers afforded every opportunity to those inclined to invest on the different races. The betting was generally lively, but owing to the smallness of the crowd the pencilers were not wholly satisfied with the business done. At the outset they jointly refused to pay the fee of £7 10s each demanded by the club, and after a conference they were granted a considerable concession, the stewards accepting £15 as a combined fee from the lot.

The Waipukurau Handicap was a race for harnessed horses only, the competitors in all the other events having the option of harness or saddle. The course was heavy as a result of recent rains, and therefore the times recorded were in most instances slow.

Huonette, a daughter of Huons, won a double, the Porangahau Maiden Plate and Arlington Handicap. Te Awahuri, a five-year-old son of Bellman, got the verdict in a couple of events—the Ladies' Bracelet and Mount Herbert Handicap. Rockwood (by Blackwood—Abdallah) secured the Hawke's Bay Handicap, Butterfly (by Imperious) the Waipukurau Handicap, Ticket, a daughter of King George, capturing the Tavistock Handicap.

Mr. J. H. Pollock, the club's handicapper, was in attendance, and by his knowledge and experience, considerably lightened the labours of the officials.

T. Quinlivan, jun., brought back from Wanganui a baby brother to Helen Portland by Chasseur that fell to his nod at 11 guineas when some of Mr. Moore's youngsters were put up for sale.

Asteroid, who is still in work, will be mated with Birkenhead this season.

The ancient Baltic is now one of Paddy (A.) Rayner's pupils at Greenmeadows.

Aroha has been registered as the joint property of Messrs. Stanley Bennett and J. Allen.

T. Quinlivan, jun., is having a bad time of it with his youngsters, all of the juvenile brigade being laid up with influenza and strangles. The elder members of his team—Gazeley, King Billy, Moriarty, and Muskerry—are so far well and hearty.

Stay-at-home backers remained loyal to Waipu and Bobrikoff on Saturday, the result being an increase of their bullion. The success of the former would no doubt be very pleasing to Mr. A. F. Douglas, for the gelding was bred on the station (Te Mahanga) owned by he and his brother, Mr. W. J. Dogulas.

That well-known jumper King Jimmy, owned by Miss Reynolds, of Gisborne, died here last Thursday on the passage by steamer from Gisborne to Napier. He was injured in his box and succumbed shortly after his arrival here.

WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON, June 2.

Harry Thompson, an old-time leading Canterbury jockey and trainer, who, during recent years, has devoted his time to supervising various horse-breeding establishments, may probably re-enter the ranks of private trainers. Thompson, at the instance of one of Canterbury's wealthy landowners (who is anxious to acquire a racing stud) has just completed the inspection of a number of thoroughbreds that have been placed on the sale list by the Hon. J. D. Ormond. Quite a number of untried youngsters were led out for inspection, and business may result when Thompson has reported the result of his inspection to his principal.

The result of the Great Northern Hurdle Race came as no surprise to those who witnessed the great staying abilities exhibited by Mr. Douglas' horse Waipu at Wanganui. From the report of the race Waipu may have been lucky, inasmuch as three dangerous opponents, Paritutu, Omati, and Aorangl, fell whilst occupying prominent positions near the business end of the contest. Waipu is such a genuine stayer that in all probability the leaders would have come back to him ere they landed over the last hurdle had they stood up. Only those who witnessed the strong run put in by Waipu at the finish of the Wanganui Hurdle Race can form a correct estimation of his staying.

The mishap of Paritutu's is the first he has experienced, the Castor gelding being exceedingly nimble over battens. Those who witnessed the clever recoveries made by Paritutu (after he had heavily clouted some of his hurdles) in the last Grand National Hurdle Race, quickly recognised that the New Plymouth horse would soon become a most proficient hurdler. The most experienced hurdle riders will make mistakes, but Percy Johnston has been long enough at the game to know that it is risky business approaching a hurdle in the immediate rear of another horse. Obviously, should the leader fall, there is but little hope for those following close behind.

The victory of Bobrikoff in the Cornwall Handicap bears out the good opinion that was formed of the colt when he effected his sensational run in the last Hawke's Bay Guineas. It is no exaggeration to state that in that race he conceded Gold Dust and Elevation quite a dozen lengths. This he reduced to a couple of lengths ere the judge's box was reached. That very useful pair of colts, Goldbeater and All Red, were passed by Bobrikoff as if they were common hacks. Should Mr. Lowry's gelding remain sound he will prove hard to defeat in the very best of company.

News has been received in Wellington that the whole of the late Mr. Geo. G. Stead's extensive racing stud, together with stallions, brood mares and foals, will be absolutely sold without reserve early in August next. All ready probable buyers from Australia and elsewhere are on the qui vive, and competition for the numerous highly-bred lots is sure to be keen. It is a noteworthy fact that only a few days prior to his illness the deceased sportsman spoke hopefully of his team's prospects for the ensuing racing season. Included in the Yaldhurst team are the highly-bred colts and fillies purchased by Mr. Stead during his last visit to England. As these will be eligible for racing early next spring, it will be interesting to note how they will fare when pitted against Maoriland-bred horses.

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