



RACING.



RACING CALENDAR.

SEASON 1907.

FIXTURES.

June 24 and 25.—Napier Park R.C.
July 9, 10.—Gisborne R.C.
July 18, 22, and 25.—Wellington R.C.

ACCEPTANCES.

July 1.—Gisborne R.C.

THE RACE MEETING FOR FLEET WEEK.

Although at first there seemed some likelihood of the proposed race meeting at Eilerslie to be held during the visit of the United States Fleet, falling through, yet the difficulties in the way have been surmounted. It was contrary to the rules for any club to hold more than four meetings a year, but this has been got over by Auckland's three race club's combining. It has been, of course, impossible to obtain the permission of the Racing Conference to hold the fixture, as that body does not meet until July 23. It is, however, on the advice of the President of the Conference that the arrangements for the meeting have been gone on with, and the official sanction will doubtless follow later on. The presidents of the three Auckland clubs have met and decided that the meeting shall take place on Wednesday, August 12, and a good programme has been drawn up. As, unfortunately, the fleet of battleships will arrive here early in August, it will be almost an impossibility to hold a really first-class meeting. To begin with our best steeplechase horses will have gone South to run at the National Meeting at Riccarton. Then, again, many horses will have been thrown out of training, and it is too much to expect the owners to have them wound up for a one day meeting. Nevertheless, if only the weather be fine, a good afternoon's sport should be shown, and it will give our guests an opportunity of comparing our methods of holding race meetings with those obtaining in the Republic. With such a strong executive as the three clubs can get together, we have no reason to fear the result of such comparison.

A GREAT SALE OF BLOOD-STOCK.

One of the greatest dispersal sales of bloodstock ever held in the colonies will take place on Wednesday, August 12, when Messrs. Pyne and Co., of Christchurch, will sell by auction, without reserve, the whole of the racing and breeding stud of the late Mr. G. G. Stead. Already inquiries are coming in from all parts for catalogues and particulars. Quite a number of Australian buyers intend coming over, among those who will cross the Tasman Sea being Mr. Sol Green, who has just given over 4000 guineas for Positano. Altogether there seems likely to be a great concourse of sportsmen round the ring-side when the auctioneer mounts the rostrum.

Of the horses in training, twenty-five lots are to be submitted, and for some of those there will be some sharp competition. Particularly does this apply to Golden Slipper, the speedy daughter of Multiform and Aura, who is certain to fetch a big figure. Then there is Armlet, the bay daughter of Menschikoff and Armilla, who has shown she knows how to gallop. Count Witte is another fast horse who should go to a good figure. Buying racing stock is something of a lottery, and it will be very interesting to know who will get the prizes among the untried young stock. For prizes, and very valuable ones at that, there must be among the numerous two-year-olds and yearlings to be submitted to auction. How can it be otherwise, when included in the list are such beautifully bred equines as Munjeet's brother Cronstadt, Solution's half-brother Nobel, Golden Slipper's sister, Perle d'Or, Vesper Bell (Multi-

form—Curfew Bell), Nautiform (Multiform—Rattler), Cymbiform (Multiform—Saucer), Guianforte (Multiform—La Valiere), Bliss (Stepniak—Far Away), Ristori (Royal Artillery—Helen Faucit), Hope Diamond (Royal Artillery—Bluefire), Roselike (Multiform—Soul Rose), Pilgrim's Rest (Pilgrim's Progress—Zingana), and Royal Guard (Royal Artillery—Culdoy). Then, again, there are the imported two-year-olds, Cheshire (who was got by the St. Simon horse, Tarpoley) and Ormulu, a daughter of Ormonde's greatest son Orme from the Sanfoin mare Hey Presto. The list of yearlings also is well worthy of perusal.

The three stallions to come under the hammer are Multiform, Boniform, and Royal Artillery. When the first-named is led into the ring there is certain to be a perfect fusillade of bids, for the bay son of Hotchkiss and Forme has proved himself a great stud success. Last season his stock won ten races of the value of £3087, while the year before he headed the list of winning sires in the Dominion, eleven horses capturing no less than £11,634 in stake money. This season his most brilliant representative has been Golden Slipper.

Like Multiform, Royal Artillery was bred at Wellington Park, being by Hotchkiss from Rose of Wellington. A horse of most commanding appearance, he should make a name for himself at the stud. Boniform is, of course, only a youngster, but if given anything like a chance, should get good stock. He had the art of galloping to perfection, but was found very difficult to train, or he would not now be at the stud.

Truly the brood mares to be auctioned are a blue-blooded lot. In the list appear the names of such mares as the peerless Cruciform; Otterden, the dam of Martian, Boniform and Sungod; La Noite, the dam of Nocuiform and Nightfall; Problem, the dam of Solution; the flying Isolt; the imported Periolina, by Persimmon from La Carolina; a Ladas mare imported from England; Saucer (imp.), by Sorcerer from Angola; Field Rose, a sister to Screw Gun; Aura, the dam of Aurum and Golden Slipper; and many others of aristocratic lineage. Altogether there are twenty-nine mares to be offered, and the majority of these have been stinted to either Multiform, Charlmagne II., Birkenhead, Royal Artillery, Clanranald, Kilcheran, St. Ambrose, Achilles, and Stepniak. When the sales list is made up it seems fairly certain that a heavy total will have to be recorded when giving the prices paid. Full particulars of the various lots to be offered will be found in our advertising columns.

NOTES ON THE HAWKE'S BAY MEETING.

(By our H.B. Correspondent.)

The first day's racing in connection with the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's winter meeting was held on Wednesday. The weather was cold and a few showers were experienced throughout the day. The attendance was not quite up to the usual standard owing no doubt to the unsettled state of the weather, the ladies particularly not being strongly represented. His Excellency the Governor and Lady Plunket were present.

All the acceptors in the Ladies' Bracelet event went to the post, and the race was an extremely interesting one, the winner turning up in Ahel, who was nominated by Mrs. F. Davis. At the conclusion of the race the bracelets were handed to Miss Russell by Lady Plunket owing to the winning nominators being unavoidably absent. Sir Wm. Russell introduced Lady Plunket in a speech in which he dwelt on the high honour that it was to the winner to receive the bracelets through Her Ladyship.

The Steeplechase also brought out all the acceptors, and Faro was made favourite. A fast-run race ended in favour of Post Haste, who was the second outsider, and rewarded his supporters with a good dividend. Faro ran off at the manuka fence along

the back stretch the second time round, as did Pierre, while Miss King pulled up at the double in front of the grandstand. Pushful let his supporters down by falling at the sod wall on the way home. Post Haste and his rider were accorded an ovation on returning to scale.

The totalisator figures showed a decrease of £1895, the amount put through the machine totalling £6153 as against £8048 for the corresponding day last year, when a double machine was run. The amount received from the twelve licensed bookmakers (£246) will more than make up for the shortage.

The winter meeting of the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club was brought to a close of Thursday. Although the weather was cold and the sky gloomy, with only occasional glimpses of sunshine, there was a satisfactorily large attendance, and the interest of the sport more than atoned for the climatic unpleasantness. Two or three showers fell during the afternoon, the heaviest just as the programme had been completed. The course was rather heavy, but in very fair condition considering the previous rains.

For the big event of the day, the June Steeplechase, the seven horses whose names appeared on the card faced the starter. Faro was a hot favourite, and up to within a few strides from home looked a winner, but in the end had to succumb to Pierre, a gallant struggle taking place between the two. Aroha destroyed whatever chance he might have had by failing to negotiate the sod wall on the first round.

For the Ladies' Necklace 12 horses started. Chatterer was a strong favourite, but sadly disappointed her backers by finishing sixth. Espartero won rather easily, his nearest attendant (Hinupai) running rather wide just at the nish.

The other events were well contested, some of the finishes being close and exciting. It was a noteworthy feature and a fact that redounds to the credit of the handicapper, that in only a couple of races did the favourite get home.

The sum of £6387 passed through the totalisator as against £7270 on the second day last year, when a double machine was in operation. The total for the meeting was £12,540 as compared with £15,318 for the winter meeting of 1907. There were 10 licensed bookmakers on the ground on the second day, who each paid £20 10s for the privilege of betting.

CONCERNING TROTTING.

A few weeks ago Mr. R. O. Duncan was elected to a seat on the N.Z. Trotting Association. He has now addressed a letter to that body containing suggestions worthy of careful consideration. The first subject dealt with (says the "Canterbury Times") refers to the advisableness of discarding the American trotting and pacing standard, and adopting one of our own, to suit Australasian requirements. This is a subject that has been brought forward previously, so far without any practical result, but it is a matter which might well claim attention from the authorities.

Closely allied to it is another point worthy of consideration, the establishment of an honours list of New Zealand horses. The idea is that the Association should compile, from year to year, a list of horses winning in certain times, say, trotting one mile in 2min 25sec, or two miles in 4min 50sec, and pacing one mile in 2min 20sec or two miles in 4min 45sec. As Mr. Duncan remarks, owners would consider it an honour to have their horses entered in the honours list of the New Zealand Trotting Association. It would really be a compilation of the fastest horses in the Dominion each year, and they could be so numbered that the horses doing the fastest times would occupy the pride of position in regard to number in their respective classes. This suggestion is one which should meet with the favourable approval from breeders, as it would be something to add to a horse's pedigree to say that the sire or the dam was in the Asso-

ciation's honours list of a certain year.

Still on the subject of performances is a suggestion for the compilation of Australasian trotting and pacing records, the idea being to enumerate separately the records for different ages, and for each sex, over all distances. At first glance this might be thought a difficult task, but the work would not, after all, be at all out of proportion to the benefit, in the direction of providing valuable information to the wide circle of those who would be interested.

The remarks on the stamina of the horses are certainly entitled to serious consideration. Mr. Duncan's suggestion is that a three-mile race should be included in programme that extends to two or three days, an idea which, having in view the encouragement of the utility horse, has much to recommend it.

The proposal for registering the extended pedigrees of imported horses is one that is of special value to breeders, but the next suggestion is of more general interest. This is to the effect that the Trotting Conference should be urged to discourage optional races. The idea of keeping saddle and harness performers separate is in the interest of the best class of sport, but it might not find favour with some of the smaller clubs, and, more particularly, with country clubs which include trotting events on their programmes. The proposals all have the merit of aiming at the betterment of a sport which, though still in its infancy in New Zealand, is rapidly growing in popularity.

THE EX-AUCKLANDER APOLOGUE.

According to the Indian correspondent of the "Australasian," the best accounts are to hand from Western India of Apologue, who landed there in good order, and has continued to do well since his arrival. The horse is at present at Poona, but one hears that as soon as the present terrific heat breaks with the advent of the rains, and railway travelling is rendered somewhat less of an ordeal, he may be sent to the more salubrious Bangalore, in Southern India, to summer. They say that he shows no signs of the lameness from which the Australian papers reported him to be suffering, and his friends also say that they have no fears about his standing a preparation for his big engagement in December—the Calcutta Viceroy's Cup. If he can be got to the post fit and well they say that he will spread-eagle his field, and make a hack of Fitzgraffon. It is a good deal to promise for a horse in his first year in this country. On book form he beats anything that we have in India at the moment, but there is always a very big "if" with an unacclimatised horse, and we so often see brilliant performers fail to come to within 7lb or near of their real merit. Aucklanders would like to read of Apologue following up his Melbourne Cup win with a victory in the Viceroy's Cup.

A STRIKE OF JOCKEYS.

The latest thing in the way of strike comes from Rockhampton, the city of sin, sweat and sorrow, where according to the "Town and Country Journal," it was the method adopted by the jockeys to remedy a grievance they had against the starter. It appears that the official acting at the barrier had occasion to inflict fines to the amount of £18 on the riders taking part in the first race on the third day. The jockeys refused to pay and went on strike. The committee then called the starter before them, and he not only refused to remit the fines, but stated that if the committee did so would not again perform the duties of starter. The committee, it was reported, remitted the fines, and a Mr. A. S. Thompson filed the position of starter for the rest of the day. No doubt the committee acted, in their opinion, for the best, but it is very certain that they in the future can hardly expect to keep control of their affairs as they should. On some other occasion the "boys" may think