



RACING.



RACING CALENDAR.

SEASON 1907.

FIXTURES.

July 9, 10.—Gisborne R.C.
July 18, 22, and 25.—Wellington R.C.
July 20.—Hawke's Bay Hunt Club
July 30.—North Canterbury J.C.
August 12.—Special Fleet Week Race Meeting at Ellerslie
August 11, 13, 15.—C.J.C. Grand National Meeting

NOMINATIONS.

July 17.—Fleet Meeting

HANDICAPS.

July 27.—Fleet Meeting

ACCEPTANCES.

July 1.—Gisborne R.C.
July 31.—Fleet Meeting

THE FLEET WEEK RACE MEETING.

A GOOD PROGRAMME ARRANGED

In our last issue there appeared a synopsis of the programme for the special race meeting to be given at Ellerslie in honour of the visit of the United States fleet of battleships. This programme will be found in our advertising columns, and is of a nature calculated to prove popular with owners. The races on the list are as follows:—Welcome Hurdle Race of 125sovs, one mile and a-half; the Admirals' Handicap of 110sovs, five furlongs; the Roosevelt Handicap of 300 sovs, one mile; the Sperry Steeplechase of 250sovs, three miles; the Connecticut Steeplechase for hunters of 150sovs, two and a-half miles; and the Fleet Handicap of 200sovs, five furlongs. Mr. O'Connor will act as starter, Mr. Lusk as judge, while Mr. R. Wynyard will do the handicapping. Bookmakers will be charged a fee of £20 for licenses to bet, with 10s for a clerk. There is one little point which has been possibly overlooked. It is possible that among the American officers there may be some fine horsemen who would not only enjoy a ride over such a course as the Connecticut Steeplechase provides, but would do thorough justice to their mounts. One of the very finest amateur riders we have ever seen in the colonies was a naval officer, a lieutenant on H.M.S. Orlando, who is said to have been the original of Patterson's famous poem, "The Amateur Rider." America is noted for its horsemen, but should such a one be there ought he to be barred out? The point is a small one, but it is worth noting.

It is perhaps a little unfortunate that the meeting should clash with the Grand National Meeting of the Canterbury Jockey Club, but this, of course, was entirely unavoidable. The committee to manage the Fleet Week meeting will be the A.R.C. executive, together with the chairmen and secretaries of the Avondale and Takapuna Jockey Clubs. Owners should note that nominations will close with Mr. J. F. Hartland at the A.R.C. office on Friday, July 17, at 9 p.m. Weights will appear on Monday, July 27, while acceptances close on Friday, July 31. Given fine weather on the eventful day, this special meeting should prove one of the most popular ever held at Ellerslie.

PENALTY CONDITIONS IN NEED OF ALTERATION.

It would seem that the Canterbury Jockey Club is not desirous of seeing the Wellington R.C. go ahead, at least so it would appear from the altogether absurd conditions imposed in the way of penalties at the Riccarton fixture. For instance, in the N.Z. Grand National Steeplechase the winner of any steeplechase of the value of £300 is penalised to the extent of 14lb, and the same applies to the big hurdle event at Riccarton. Now this must tell very hardly indeed on the Auckland brigade, such as Klatere, Loch Fyne, Shrapnel, or Lady Hune. If any of these were to race at Wellington and win, say, the Winter Hurdles or the Wellington Steeplechase, they

would immediately be mulcted in a 14lb penalty, when the only thing to do would be to send them straight home again instead of going on to Christchurch. If a horse has a light weight, an additional stone on his back for winning may be no great hardship, but a very different tale has to be told when the original handicap comes in the 11st or 12st list, as will probably be the case with the Auckland horses. Therefore owners must either race at Wellington and take the risk of being crushed out of the Riccarton events, or else pass Wellington altogether and miss the chance of winning some nice stakes. This seems manifestly unfair to owners who are willing to incur the risk and anxiety, to say nothing of the expense, of sending their horses so far afield in the middle of winter. It also seems to mean that the C.J.C. does not wish that the interest in its big winter fixture should be any way imperilled by the success of the Wellington gathering.

As our Wellington correspondent points out, a far more equitable plan would be to adopt the Victoria Racing Club's sliding scale of penalties. These run as follows:—Winners of a hurdle race after the declaration of weights if handicapped at 9st 10lb, 7lb extra; 10st 11lb to 11st 6lb, 5lb; 11st 7lb or upwards, 3lb. An even better plan would be to allow the weight adjuster to re-handicap winners if thought necessary. Suppose a horse like Klatere were handicapped at 12st 10lb for the G.N. Steeplechase. If he succeeded at Wellington he would have to carry 13st 10lb at Riccarton, which is simply farcical, whereas if rehandicapped Mr. Henrys would not allot him more than 13st. The conditions put such a bar on our best horses being sent South that the wonder is they have not been altered before. But we trust before the next meeting this will have been done.

NOTES ON THE NAPIER PARK MEETING.

(By Our Hawke's Bay Correspondent.)

Though the weather was unpromising on Wednesday, heavy rain falling in the early morning, followed by an occasional shower as the forenoon advanced, the stewards of the Napier Park Racing Club decided to brave the elements and proceed with the programme of their winter meeting. This determination on their part not to disappoint the public and to keep faith with those to whom a race meeting has attractions no meteorological conditions can wholly destroy, was duly rewarded. The sky was overcast and threatening for the greater part of the afternoon, but fortunately the rain held off, and, with the exception of a little dampness under foot, no unpleasantness was experienced. Naturally the course was heavy and against any records being broken, but still the racing was good and the times far from discreditable. All things considered. The attendance was good, and the club is to be congratulated on the results.

Six horses faced the starter for the first of the big events in the Stewards' Stakes, Ballyneety being scratched. White Lie started favourite, but was easily disposed of in the straight by Mussel, who won by a comfortable length.

The Napier Steeplechase was a capital race for the greater part of the distance, but in the end proved a comparatively easy thing for Fretwork. In this event Valima, one of the favourites, ran off at the sod wall, and Post Haste came down at the seven-furlong brush fence, both horse and rider escaping practically unhurt.

The Ladies' Bracelet fell to Hinupai, who won a good race by a long neck, the favourite (Espartero) running second.

The other events were all well contested, and were also productive of lively interest. The sum of £6343 was invested on the totalisator as compared with £7835 on the first day of last year's winter meeting. Twelve

bookmakers were on the ground, seven inside the enclosure at a fee of £20 10s each, and five outside at £10 10s, the total derived by the club from this source of revenue being £196.

SECOND DAY.

The winter meeting was brought to a close on Thursday, the weather, though dull, remaining fine. There was a large attendance. The first big race of the day—the Winter Oats Handicap—saw all the acceptors go to the post on a heavy course. Erl King was made a hot favourite, and he justified the confidence reposed in him, getting home by a length after a good race.

In the Waiohiki Hack Hurdles Hatley fell at the hurdle at the bottom bend, and his rider (T. Pritchard) had his shoulder dislocated.

The big event of the day—the Park Steeplechase—brought forth seven runners, Valima being made a slightly better favourite than Fretwork. The first favourite did not see the course out, being pulled up along the back the second time round. Fretwork, who was slow off the mark, never left the issue in doubt once. He settled down to his task, and, taking all obstacles in splendid style, ran home an easy winner from Baltic, who just managed to last long enough to beat Nogi for second honours, the latter coming with a strong run up the straight and getting within a long neck of the second horse. Fretwork and his rider (W. Higgins) came in for an ovation on returning to scale with the double to their credit.

The Ladies' Bracelet saw eight horses go to the post, four of the acceptors declining engagement. Waikaraka was sent out a big favourite, but the winner turned up in Oakbourne, who led practically from the start, getting home a couple of lengths to the good from Ancycle. Waikaraka was the second horse into the straight, but was no nearer than fourth at the finish.

Commander was the only withdrawal from the Poraita Hurdles, and The Stake was the general fancy. He was only prominent, however, on one occasion. Defeat, one of the lightly-backed runners, who always held a good position, proved to be the winner. Pretty Maid, another well-backed one, filled second place.

The totalisator figures for the day reached £6266, a decrease of £1495 over the corresponding day last year.

For the two days the sum handled was £12,609, a shrinkage of £2987. Twelve bookmakers took out licenses, five inside and seven outside. The amount received from the bookmakers more than makes up for the decrease in the machine figures.

THE AUSTRALIAN SPRING HANDICAPS.

Writing on the subject of the big spring handicaps in Australia, "Martindale" says:—"Now that the weights are out for the important spring handicaps, those who are keen on finding out what is well in will have their time fully engaged. Taking them as they are run, the Epsom comes first, the date of running—October 3—Derby Day—at Randwick. Mr. Daly has elected the New Zealander Gold Crest as the best in the race, and he gets top weight (9st 7lb). To properly overhaul these handicaps would take up columns of space; and, what is more, figures are dry reading. To my thinking, Mooltan has been harshly treated by all the handicappers. He is no doubt a good horse, but an increase of over 20lb for running second in a race is a great rise. The Acolyte also appears to have got all that he is entitled to. Still, the handicappers could no doubt show figures for their adjustments; but it appears strange that The Acolyte should have to give weight away to Peru, winner of such important races as the Australian Cup and Champion Race. In the Epsom, Iolalre and Fille Fugi appear to have fair weights, and others that may run well, if they see the post, are Legation, Decollette, Heiro, Gaby, Sir Aymer, Seddon, Mas-

ter Foote, Maranui, Rose Ray, Malt Rose, Parsee, Exsul, Ale, Alibi, and Antonina. Poseidon, at 9st 13lb, is fairly weighted in the Metropolitan, as also Peru, Lord Fitzroy, Welcome Trist, Putty, Seddon, The Brewer, Master Foote, and Pharos. Parsee is one that appears to have a very fair chance, and in the light-weight division those that may run well are Florance, Exsul, Woolloomooloo, and Antonina.

Though the Victorian handicappers are well agreed respecting top-weights with the Randwick adjuster, there are several marked differences in the Caulfield and Melbourne Cup lists. Of course, Poseidon is top in each, and not badly treated at 10st in the Melbourne Cup. In each Cup I think Mooltan has been rated too high. May King is well placed at Caulfield, also Waipuna, Destinist, Dyed Garments, Legation, and Welcome Trist. If Seddon can stay he has a good chance, as also Kyeaderie, Parsee, Golden Slipper, and Eric. More than half the horses nominated are weighted with only 7lb between them. It may be that in this lot of over 100 horses the winner may be found. Perhaps the most likely ones are Exsul, Love Lord, Enchanted States, Electron, Argea, Diabolo, and Antonina.

There are 199 horses in the Melbourne Cup, and, seeing that 111 of them are weighted from 6st 13lb down to 6st 7lb, it cannot be said that they are handicapped at all. The fact is in all the big handicaps the horses are really classed, not handicapped. For instance, if half the lot weighted in the Melbourne or Caulfield Cups below 7st were nominated for some minor event, we would find that the handicapper would make a difference of about 3st between what he considered the best and worst. It is a long while between now and the first Tuesday in November, when the Melbourne Cup is run, and the form of many may be improved. As they stand at the present time, the best seem to be Waipuna, Dyed Garments, Welcome Trist, Prophecy, Kyeaderie, The Brewer, Pharos, Putty, Seddon, Alawa, Eric, Woolloomooloo, Parsee, Diabolo, Lord Nolan, and Exsul.

ADVICE TO THE MOUNTED RIFLES.

In this issue a picture is published showing the camp of the Second Regiment Auckland Mounted Rifles at Te Papa. When the camp was broken up, Major Allen Bell, in his parting address, said that the camp had been a most pleasant one for the regimental staff and squadron officers, and this was largely due to the splendid manner in which all ranks had endeavoured to carry out their duties. The absence of drunkenness, bad language, and disorderly behaviour in camp was a source of the greatest satisfaction and pride to him as officer commanding the regiment. Unfortunately, under the present conditions, it was impossible to make efficient soldiers of them; they must look upon themselves as being in the position of "stopping the gap" until the majority of the people of the Dominion and the Empire recognised their duties and responsibilities, and the day arrived when we had universal training, and every able-bodied man throughout the Empire would become an efficient defender of his country. Until that day arrived, he urged the men under his command to do their best to make themselves as efficient as possible under the circumstances, and whether in uniform or out to behave in such a manner as would command the esteem and respect of the public. His aim had been to raise the regiment to such a status that he would be proud to meet any member of it no matter what position in life he occupied, and to feel that that member was honoured and respected by his fellow men. He fully understood and appreciated the self-sacrifice that prompted them to rough it in camp during the winter months, while others remained comfortably at home. The regimental staff had done their best to alleviate these condi-