



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 31.—Fleet Meeting

THE FLEET RACE MEETING.

Owners must not lose sight of the fact that nominations for the Fleet Race Meeting must be lodged with Mr. J. F. Hartland not later than 9 p.m. on Friday, July 17. Although it is too much to expect a heavy nomination list, yet, as the prize money is fixed upon a very liberal scale, sufficient entries should be received to provide some excellent sport. Some doubt has been expressed upon this point, but there should be little anxiety on the matter, for there are a very fair number of horses yet in commission, and there should also be a sprinkling from the outside centres. The very strong executive intends making a special effort to make the gathering a success, and it is fairly safe to assume that everything that can possibly be done in this direction will be duly carried out. One thing may be taken for granted, and that is if the weather proves fine the attendance will be enormous. It is to be hoped that owners will do their share to help towards the success of this special meeting, and thus give pleasure to the hosts of visitors to Auckland next month.

THE RICHMOND THOUSAND.

VICTORY OF AN AUCKLAND PONY.

The Richmond Thousand, the biggest stake ever offered for competition among ponies, was run on Monday on the Ascot course, Melbourne. There was a splendid entry, ponies being nominated from all the principal centres. Little Dod, Miss Mayfield, Fuse, Skylark, Lorraine, Lady Clare, Taree, and Clarette represented New South Wales. New Zealand was represented by Mighty Atom, Hopscotch, Balgonie, and Zoraya; and Tasmania by Glimmer; while, of course, the cream of the Victorian contingent were in commission. Unfortunately the weather was very bad, and the heavy going affected the top weights. From the meagre particulars to hand, it would appear that the Sydney pony Little Dod (7st 13lb) made strong play, and looked like winning, but at the distance Balgonie (8st 3lb), who had a bad passage, got through, and, finishing in great style, defeated Little Dod. That smart Aucklander Mighty Atom had the big impost of 9st 10lb, Hopscotch had 8st, and Zoraya 7st 10lb. Balgonie, the winner, was bred in Auckland, being got by the defunct Phoebus Apollo from Balbirnie, a mare who used to race here in the all black colours of Mr. J. Marshall. Balgonie more recently has been in Wellington, where a race or two has gone to her credit.

PAID STEWARDS.

The near approach of the annual Racing Conference draws attention to the business which that body proposes to deal with. There are quite a number of points of but little importance included, but the order paper does not, unfortunately, include the question of having stipendiary stewards. Much has appeared in these columns

and elsewhere on the subject, and one would have expected by now some move would be made in the matter, but members seem to prefer a *tailho* policy. In an editorial on the subject, the "Australasian" says:—

"That the stipendiary steward system must be right in theory no one can deny. Who would advocate an honorary handicapper, an honorary judge, or an honorary starter in these advanced days? Public opinion has forced racing clubs into selecting the best men available for the positions mentioned, and paying them a reasonable salary. Is the position of steward of so little importance that any man elected to the committee is considered good enough to fill it? We think that if racing is to be conducted to the satisfaction of owners, trainers, jockeys, and the public, the stewards should be men chosen for their fitness as stewards. The reason for paying them, and paying them well, is manifest. They should see all the racing—not just the meetings they are interested in as committeemen, owners, or punters—and they should not bet nor have any interest in horses. It stands to reason that men who know the horses just as the judge does must have a far better chance of seeing what goes on in a race, than the casual amateur. There can be no two opinions about the value of the professional as against the honorary steward, and if members of committee do hold the opinion that any one of their number is good enough to be a steward, we can assure them that that is not outside opinion. The pony men were the first to test and prove the value of the starting-gate, and it has been left for Mr. John Wren to lead the way in Victoria as regards paid stewards. He is the sole proprietor of his courses, and he knows the value of securing the goodwill of his patrons. To do this he aims at keeping the racing as straight as it is possible to keep racing, and to ensure this he pays his stewards. He certainly gets good value for his money. The only other courses in Australia in which the paid stewards get full play is in West Australia. There they act on all the leading courses, and there is no appeal from their decisions. Perhaps this is going a little too far. On matters of fact they should be absolute judges, but there can be no harm in allowing an appeal where points of racing law are concerned." Are we in the Dominion to be the last to adopt this wise course?

THE YALDHURST SALE.

The more one looks at the catalogue of the late Mr. G. G. Stead's racing and breeding stock the more one is convinced of the great value of the horses to be submitted. For instance, take the racing stock; there are twenty-four eligible to race during the coming season, twenty of which are in hand at the present time, and the majority in forward condition for early racing. Count Witte and Los Angelos represent the four-year-old contingent, and possibly there is a good race in that fine galloper Boniform. Then in the three-year-old class, or what will be three-year-olds at the date of sale, Golden Slipper, Armlet, Sunslow, and Sweet Angelus are four beauties, the first-named being a veritable champion. Then there are Idyll, Soprano, and Nobel, who have yet to race. Add to these Coroniform and the imported filly Perolina (by Persimmon), and the filly by the Derby winner Ladas from Flying Fox's sister Vane, and the powerful three-year-old list is complete.

Among the coming two-year-olds there are three filly and two colts by Multiform, including Golden Slipper's sister Perle d'Or. Stepniak claims a nice colt for a full brother to Munjeet, and also a sister to Elysium. Royal Artillery has five fillies from Bluespur and Malster's sister Barley Brae. Pilgrim's Progress is represented by a gelding from Zingara, a daughter of the Auckland Cup winner Anita. Then there are the imported fillies Ringdove, by Collar; Ormula, by Orme; and the colt Cheshire, by Tarporley.

The list of brood mares is a long one, and comprises some of the most blue-blooded in the colony, as a glance at the names will show. This is a rare chance for breeders to get something a bit out of the ordinary. As for the stallions, it is very certain there will be keen bidding when Multiform comes into the ring, while Boniform and Royal Artillery should each run to a good figure, for they are stallions who should do great things at the stud. Altogether the sale on the 12th August ought to prove a memorable event in colonial turf history.

THE ENGLISH DERBY AND OAKS.

Further particulars of the English Derby and Oaks show that Perrier did not start favourite for the former race, that position being filled by the American-bred colt Norman III., next in order coming Vamose, Sea Sick II., and Mountain Apple, while Perrier was at fairly long odds. Of the eighteen runners the only one standing at a longer price than Signorinetta was the French representative Azote, who was at forlorn odds. Mountain Apple and Sir Archibald in turn flattered their supporters, but at the end Signorinetta fairly ran over everything, winning easily by two lengths from Primer, who beat Llangwm a neck, with Mountain Apple fourth, Eaton Lad fifth, Sea Sick II. sixth, and Royal Realm seventh. The time, 2min 40 sec., was 4sec. faster than when Orby won the previous year, but 3 1-5sec. worse than that recorded by Spear-mint in 1906.

After her Derby win one would have looked to Signorinetta to start favourite for the Oaks; but such was not the case, Mr. R. Croker's Rhodora being sent out at a very short price, while Chevalier Glistrell's filly was at twice the odds. Signorinetta had everything settled a quarter of a mile from home, and could have won by several lengths. However, W. Bullock, who rode her in both races, contented himself by beating Courtesy by three-quarters of a length. Unfortunately the race did not prove a test of the respective merits of Signorinetta and Rhodora, the latter falling as a result of getting on the heels of French Partridge, who also came to grief. Bullock, who rode Signorinetta, went from India to Ireland to ride for Mr. Croker, but after being on Orby in most of his work for last year's Derby, L. Reiff was substituted when it came to the race. Recently Bullock and his ex-employer were engaged in a lawsuit, the outcome of which was that Mr. Croker had to pay him £150.

CLOSE FINISHES.

Those who, as it is termed, "live on the game," that is, make a living by following racing, are always opposed to weight-for-age racing (says an exchange), from the fact that the fields are never very strong, consequently they have no chance of getting on early, as in the case of handicaps, and then retail it out through their favourite bookmaker to the public at a profit. The genuine racing man, on the other hand, admires w.f.a. racing, and so do the public—generally. Very often do we see a keen contest between the cracks at Randwick and Flemington. Was there ever a finish for any handicap that has aroused the enthusiasm at Randwick as did the great race for the Craven Plate between Carbine and Megaphone, when the equine champion defeated the Queenslander by a head on the post. Many other keen contests could be mentioned, the most sensational, perhaps, being the dead-heat between Reprive and Dagworth in the Randwick Plate (and, so far as Auckland is concerned, the memorable go between Seahorse and Explosion). For a series of close finishes, I should say that the Newmarket Stakes, run for at the second spring meeting of the English Jockey Club at Newmarket, has proved a remarkable record of late years. In 1890, according to "Ruff," there was only a head between Memoir and Blue Green, and in 1892 Curio only beat St. Angelo a

head, while a similar distance separated second and third. In 1895 The Owl defeated Solano by a neck, and the judge returned a similar verdict the following year, when Galezzo was returned the winner. The race, it may be remarked, is for three-year-olds, run over 1¼ miles, so that it is not a sprint event by any means. That the close finishes have continued since the dates mentioned is another curious fact, as in 1900 Diamond Jubilee only beat Chevening a head, and William the Third was only the same ahead of Doricles the next year, and after a great race Ard Patrick defeated Fowling Piece a head, in 1902. Henry the First's victory was only a head over John o' Gaunt in 1904. Lally beat Malua a head in 1906, and Accraire was a head in advance of Linacre in 1907. The score is of 19 races, eight have been won by a head and two by a neck. No handicap can show such a record.

SHOULD MEN BET?

The recognition of the fact that men will find a way to gamble so long as their inclination tends that way, despite any legal attempt to oppose them, appears to be more generally and broad-mindedly acknowledged every day (says the "Referee"); but the increased attendances and consequently more extensive speculations at race meetings should be accepted as proof of the desire on the part of those who will bet to do so without infringing the laws of the country. When all is said and done, betting is not the heinous offence that some people would make believe, and is a method of both amusement and speculation which is indulged in all over the world by people who are easily as capable of caretaking their moral welfare as are a great number of those whose daily bread appears to be earned by holding forth against it. The Governments of the various States appear to have risen to the occasion and done their best to minimise gambling so far as in their power lay, evidently realising that any further attempt to curtail the freedom and will of the voter with regard to these matters might result in a reaction which would land us back in a worse position than we had been before. A New York writer attributes a deal to the anti-betting movement in that State to Mr. Hearst, who is of opinion that his defeat for the position of Governor was due to the sporting element. It being a recognised fact that people have gambled in some form or other from time immemorial, and will instinctively continue to do so, why not accept the inevitable and allow them to gratify that desire under the least harmful of all conditions, which has been provided by the combined Legislatures of the country, who, under their new Gaming Acts, control and limit the days set apart for racing in this as well as other States?

CHEAP SIRE PROGENY.

In England, even nowadays, a horse who proves useful as a sire is occasionally picked up at a low figure, and, touching on the success of Mr. R. Sievier's four-year-old mare Teofani in the Stewards' Handicap at Kempton Par, of £875, on May 15, a recent London exchange says: "Her sire Black Duck, stood at the low fee of 8sovs in 1903 when he was mated with Cigarette (Teofani's dam). In the following December Black Duck himself was put up at auction at the Newmarket sales, and realised the trifling sum of 11 guineas. Yet in the next season (1904) one of the despised stallion's offspring Romer, then a three-year-old, won three good handicaps, inclusive of the Derby Gold Cup, of the total value of £2205. As a two-year-old Romer had won a race worth 259sovs on the first day of the Kempton Jubilee meeting. Teofani, who likewise scored her first success at Kempton, did not run as a two-year-old, and only twice last season, while prior to last Friday she had this season run second to Gold Sand at Epsom. It should be added that after