

Mr W. H. Herries again draws attention to the absurdity of including the winning of New Zealand bred horses in Australia in the N.Z. Turf Statistics. "The value of such statistics is, as I have pointed out (says Mr Herries), in previous years, entirely destroyed by such a practice. No other statistics that I am aware of are compiled in the same way. In English Turf statistics, for instance, no winnings of English horses in France are included, nor are the winnings of French horses in England included in the French statistics. The climax of absurdity is reached when Balgonie who never won a sixpence in New Zealand last season, except at an unregistered meeting, appears in the list of winning horses in New Zealand because she won a big stake in Australia. Again, if the winnings of Balgonie, who has not returned to New Zealand, are counted, why not the winnings of Apologue and other horses owned by New Zealanders that have won in Australia? I earnestly hope that this will be the last time that the New Zealand statistics are compiled in this misleading manner.

Some ridiculous stories have been recently going the rounds (says the L.V. Gazette), to the effect that His Majesty the King, disgusted with the ill luck which persistently attends his colours, was about to give up racing altogether. Needless to say, if this were true a serious blow would be struck at the Turf; but our monarch is too good a sportsman to be discouraged in this fashion, and the rumour was promptly and officially contradicted. It may be, too, that in the near future we shall see the purple and scarlet livery more prominent than has recently been the case, for Minoru is evidently a smart youngster, while if reports do not err Marsh has tried another good two-year-old in Princess de Galles. This filly, whose sponsor is no less a personage than Queen Alexandra, is of the King's own breeding, being by Gallinule out of Ecila, and it is probable she will make her debut in the July Stakes, which last year fell to a representative of Royalty in Pearl of the Loch. Needless to say, if the "Princess" is destined to follow in the latter's footsteps, there will be considerable rejoicing.

The ex-Auckland pony Dr. Quest, who is now known as Mutiny, won the Fourteen-Three Handicap at Kensington, Sydney, on the 12th inst. The son of Sou't and Nelsorina carried 9.2 and romped home two and a-half lengths ahead of another ex-Auckland in Kilderkin, who was in receipt of 8lbs. The latter must have gone off.

On the Rowley Mile at Newmarket it is extremely difficult for an on-looker to decide what has won in a close finish, even should he happen to be standing in what he fondly imagines to be a straight line with the winning-post. Sloan, when he was first making acquaintance with headquarters, averred that he had won the Cambridgeshire of 1897 by, as he phrased it, "haf a neck" on St. Cloud, whereas the judge gave the verdict a head against him. On the July course, however, instances where the spectators have differed from the "man in the box" are far more numerous, (says a Home paper) and without remembering the horses' names we can recall an amusing incident which occurred some four or five years ago, when William Griggs for a time stubbornly refused to get out of the saddle, averring that he had won a good length, while the judge said he was second.

During its comparatively brief career the £10,000 Eclipse Stakes, which was only instituted in 1886, has witnessed many exciting struggles, the one which will perhaps live longest in the memory being that out of which Epsom Lad emerged successful in 1901, for that horse's rider, Gomez, accomplished quite an acrobatic performance, holding the saddle—which had split in half—behind him with one hand, and "finishing" with the other.

A great horse in his day was Lowlander. This son of Dalesman proved to be a most brilliant miler, carrying all before him until he met Galopin in their memorable match. The secret of his merits was extraordinarily well kept, and in subsequent trials he gave the "City and Suburban" winner 7lb., 14lb., and then 21lb., each time winning in a canter. As a result a tremendous coup was landed with the horse for the Royal Hunt Cup, for which he was handicapped at 7.7, and for which, of course, he was a certainty. The morning before the race he stood in the betting at very long odds, but then a very big commission was worked, his owner, among other things, giving his coachman a hatful of sovereigns to invest with the book-makers who at that time used to fre-

quent the London pubs. That night Lowlander was at a short price, and the sequel was a very happy one, for he carried off the Hunt Cup more easily than that race has even been won before or since. It would not be possible to bring off such a coup as this nowadays, and how Lowlander's merits came to be so long undiscovered will for ever remain a mystery.

T. Payten has the largest team of horses in training in Sydney. It numbers 22. I. Earnshaw's stable shelters 21 racers; T. F. Scully is in charge of a score of horses; J. Burton has sixteen in his care, and Frank McGrath's lot numbers one less.

Mooltan, though sold for 2500gs. for the East, is not to leave Australia before meeting his spring engagements. When Mooltan retired from racing for the season after putting up such a good fight with Apologue in the Melbourne Cup, he was expected to do big things. Now with a year on his age, Mooltan is reported to be doing well in preparation, and 9st 2lb even in a Melbourne Cup can scarcely be said to be a prohibitive weight for a galloper of such credentials.

The motor car may oust the horse from the high road, but it can never replace the horse for military purposes, and it is absolutely essential that we should continue to breed within our own shores not only horses enough to supply our troops in time of peace, but horses enough to form a reserve on which we can depend in time of war. To place our dependence upon horse supplies from our colonies or foreign countries if we were involved in war with any sea power would be simply national suicide. Thus it becomes the duty of the Government to maintain the light-horse breeding industry, not because it will benefit the farmer, but because it is necessary for the national welfare.—Sir Walter Gilbey, in the Live Stock Journal.

There is nothing to indicate at the moment that one candidate more than another is "fancied" for this season (says the "S. and D. News"), but in all probability several of the aspirants for Derby honours will soon be seen out under silk again, and their running should clear up the situation to some extent. Meantime, it can with safety be said that the important three-year-old events of the spring are likely to produce interesting contests. There is, of course, always a possibility that a Poseidon will be discovered early in the season, and in such circumstances everything looks cut and dried as it were, by the time the V.R.C. Derby is reached, but Poseidons are, after all, of rare occurrence, and it is hardly likely that a Derby colt of his class will be unearthed this spring. Last season's juvenile form left the Derby question a rather open one, and at the moment at least a half-a-dozen candidates can be named with claim to serious consideration. Altogether, it is plain that the Derby this year is not going to be a one horse show.

At the Newmarket sales in June, Ellen Terry, by Multiform—Helen Faucet, in foal to Santry, by Gallinule, was sold for 20 guineas. At the sale of the late Mr G. G. Stead's horses last week, Coroniform, a three-year-old brother to Ellen Terry, realised 310 guineas.

With a spell of fine weather and the resulting good wickets there has been some tremendous scoring in the English County matches lately. The cable states that Surrey, 532 for eight wickets, of which Marshall made 167, beat Kent by an innings and 318 runs. Essex made 573 for nine wickets against Northampton, McGahey scoring 230. Middlesex totalled 534 for eight wickets against Notts, Tarrant scoring 144 (not out). Lancashire took their total against Leicester to 506, of which Tyldesley scored 243. There has been quite an epidemic of centuries, twenty-nine having been scored in eight days.

At Southampton, Somersetshire beat Hampshire by seven wickets. For the winners L. Braund scored 124, and "Sammy" Woods 105, both being not out. Between them they added 199 to the score in 2½ hours.

Hampshire beat Kent by one wicket, and Surrey beat Middlesex.

In the county match at Taunton, Kent v. Somersetshire, the former scored 601 for eight wickets. James Seymour 129, F. E. Woolley 105, A. P. Day 118, and E. Humphreys 149. Day and Humphreys added 248 in 100 minutes. At Kensington Oval Yorkshire beat Surrey by seven wickets.

INTER-PROVINCIAL.

(From Our Owa Correspondents.)

CANTERBURY.

CHRISTCHURCH, August 26.

Cross Battery and Sea King will leave for Sydney this week to fulfill their engagements at the Australian Jockey Club's Spring Meeting. W. J. Taggart will have charge of H. G. Nicholl's pair. The Ashburton sportsman is making his first onslaught on Australian soil, when his couple of speedy animals will represent him. Cross Battery is coming on nicely, while Sea King has been showing some smart work on the tracks. I am told that the best has not yet been seen of the son of Sant Lario, and if he should succeed in winning one of the big Australian Spring Handicaps, the service of St. Leger horse will be much sought after.

Clanchattan and Idyll, who were purchased by A. Skirving of Melbourne, left for their new home last week. Idyll is in the Epsom Handicap with 6.12, and being in training her new owner may elect to have a run.

Pretty Maid fetched 150 guineas, a price at which The Officer mare should well repay Mr H. Chisholm. The mare was sent to Sydney along with the other New Zealand horses purchased by Mr Chisholm.

The principal sales effected at Tattersall's on Monday week were Nancy Stair (Soul—Ch'ara), H. Chisholm, Sydney, 100gs.; Ivanoff (SStepniak—Arlene) J. Brown, 50gs.; Shimmer (Stepniak—Gleam), 17gs., A. H. Clark; Helios (Phaeton—Polly), F. H. Wilson, 12gs.; Signal (Banner—Foresight), J. Prosser, 20gs.

Multiform, Golden Slipper, Sans Peur, Saucer, Royal Plumes, Isolt and Ottersen were shipped to Sydney last week.

Either L. G. King or R. W. King, most probably the former, will ride Cross Battery and Sea King in their Australian engagements.

Count Witte has joined W. Pine's string.

Rose Noble will be trained by G. Matthews, Cronstadt by D. Roberts, D. Moraghan will prepare Oasis for future engagements, while G. Hopburn will have charge of Sweet Angelus.

Bonny Glen will, I learn, undergo a special preparation for the New Zealand Cup. He is not over burdened with weight, and should carry his 8.2 nicely.

Eurus is having an easy time just now running about in a paddock. The Grand National Steeplechase winner is looking well after his three steeplechase races at the National Meeting.

The three best sprinters seen out at the National Meeting were undoubtedly Penates, Motoa, and Lupulite, and if they go to the post for the Stewards Handicap the race should prove one of the greatest attractions at the Cup Meeting.

OTAGO.

DUNEDIN, August 26.

Mr J. Sinclair Thomson, who has been an active member of the Dunedin Jockey Club, has tendered his resignation as a steward owing to his leaving for England.

The Dunedin Jockey Club has made an increase of 920 sovs to their prize list, and this with the 1000 sovs added to last season's programme makes the substantial addition of 1920 sovs within two years.

The D.J.C. spring meeting has usually been regarded as almost a purely local gathering, but this year's programme carries an increase of 465 sovs over last year's prize list, and this should have the effect of attracting an increased number of visiting horses.

The Manulincer gelding Mango has been purchased by a Southland owner and another to go south is the Phaeton gelding Helios, who will probably do harness work in the future.

The well-known rider and trainer, Mr A. Pringle was married on Friday last to Miss Ivy Chain, of Dunedin.

The Gore Racing Club made a profit of £869 19s over last season's operations, and there is, it is understood, a prospect of the stakes being substantially increased for the present season.

The well-known trotting stallion Bolderwood, who holds a two mile record of 4.41, was shipped to Melbourne by his new owner Mr W. L. Tredrea by this week's boat. It is quite on the cards that Mr Tredrea will race the General Tracey horse against Emulator or any other stallion exhibited at the forthcoming Melbourne show. Bolderwood was accompanied by the brood mares Kitty G and My Lady, the latter of whom has a foal at foot by Rothschild.

HAWKE'S BAY.

NAPIER, August 26.

La Notte this season will be associated with Merriwee.

W. Griffiths is pushing along Forest and Sandstream in their tasks and the pair are successfully coping with the trying out process.

Commander, who is also under the control of Griffiths, is being treated to a respite.

Mr E. Keogh, of Petane, disposed of Goldbar (Gold Reef—Miss Faulkner) during the week at a satisfactory figure. The new owner of the gelding is Mr G. Coleman, who in days gone by used to have Troubadour carrying his racing ivery.

T. Quinlivan, jun., is the latest addition to the motor brigade, for he yesterday purchased a very nice car for his own use.

Turf watchers at Hastings are unanimous in their opinion that R. Gooseman has at the present time the best two-year-old of the bunch so far seen out on the preparing grounds. The juvenile is a daughter of Formulite—Denown, a pedigree which the most capricious cannot cavil at. She is the property of Mr George Hunter and if the filly goes on as well in public as she does at school, well the followers of the popular chocolate and cream have a good time ahead of them.

The Napier Park Racing Club have made a happy start in the just opened season. As my readers are no doubt aware the club run a number of sheep on their property, and yesterday the first three ewes to produce did so with triplets. Nine lambs to three mothers reads good business and caretaker O'Halloran is kept busy just at present answering the queries regarding the state of the family.

Rose Lethe and Blackwater joined A. (Paddy) Raynor's forces last week. Besides this brace the Greenmeadows trainer has Baltic, Wonderboom, and the two-year-old son of San Fran and Aio studying, and he is later on getting Criseye back again. It will be observed that Raynor, according to the argot of the turf, is doing no harm.

Blackwater is to be set going in schooling work over the battens as his owner wants a jumper made of him. If Raynor cannot do that there is not much chance for anyone else at this special branch of a horse's education.

Archa is still being kept up to the collar, the present intention of his owner being to produce him in the chasing events at the Rangitikei meeting next month, provided of course that his idea and the weight lifters are in accordance.

J. Hay, who at one time was under study for D. O'Meara at Te Mahanga station, is now duly installed as private trainer to Mr G. F. Moore, of Wanganui.

Included in his charges are Dusky Morn, Catapult, Guiding Star, Koran, a full brother to Sammy, a three-year-old half-sister to The Lark, Carissima and a three-year-old colt by Chasseur out of Zaida.

J. D. Wickham (The Tramp) was in town this week. Of late "Dad" has been having a good time with his trotters, and naturally was in the best of spirits. His refrain now is, "Give me trotters; somebody else, I do not care who it is, can have the gallopers."

J. Griffiths has purchased Tanahaha (Petroleum—Water Queen) and intends to place him at the services of breeders in the Wairoa district. Tanahaha as a two-year-old was one of R. Gooseman's pupils, and until he went amiss could foot it with the best of his year.

The Hawke's Bay bred and owned horse Zimmerman is at the top of the pole in the weights for the New Zealand Cup, and at the other end of the adjustment are to be found a trio of local neddies, in Lamsdorff, My Darling and White Lie.

WANGANUI.

WANGANUI, August 26.

Nominations for the Wanganui Jockey Club's spring meeting close on Monday, the 31st inst., with Mr. W. Hall, secretary.

A visit to the tracks of a morning now demonstrates that trainers are busy getting their charges ready for the new racing season. A large number of horses are being brushed along in view of the Marton, Rangitikei, and Wanganui meetings, not to mention the Hunt Club fixture. The latter gathering promises to be a most successful one, and some first-class sport is being looked forward to on Thursday.

Amongst the horses being worked on the local tracks is the Crackshot gelding D'Nil who looks in very good condition just now. He is moving in very nice style, and it will be strange indeed if he does not soon justify the good impressions formed of him when previously trained here. Research is