



RACING.



RACING CALENDAR.

SEASON 1907.

FIXTURES.

September 2, 3—Marton J.C.
September 19, 23, 28—Avondale J.C.
September 16, 17—Rangitikei R.C.
Sept. 24, 25—Geraldine R.C.
Sept. 24, 26—Wanganui J.C.
Oct. 7, 8—Hawke's Bay J.C.
Oct. 9—Waitara R.C.
Oct. 14, 15—Napier Park R.C.
Oct. 15—Dunedin J.C.
Oct. 21, 24—Wellington R.C.
Oct. 29, 30—Poverty Bay T.C.
Nov. 7, 9, 11—A.R.C.
Nov. 7, 9, 11, 14—C.J.C.
Nov. 9—Waverley-Waitotara R.C.
Nov. 23, Dec. 2—Takapuna J.C.
Nov. 30, Dec. 1—Feilding J.C.
Dec. 26, 30, Jan. 1, 2—A.R.C.

NOMINATIONS.

September 4—Avondale J.C.
Sept. 11—Manawatu Stakes of 1910;
Palmerston North Stakes of 1909;
Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes of 1909
Aug. 31—Wanganui J.C.
Oct. 3—Poverty Bay Turf Club (special events)
Oct. 17—Poverty Bay Turf Club
Nov. 2—Wanganui Guineas, 1909; Jackson Stakes, 1910.

HANDICAPS.

Sept. 11—Wanganui J.C.
Oct. 17—Poverty Bay T.C. (special events)
Oct. 24—Poverty Bay T.C.

ACCEPTANCES.

September 11—Avondale J.C.
Sept. 21—Wanganui J.C.
Oct. 24—Poverty Bay T.C.

BOOKMAKERS' ADVERTISEMENTS AND THE GAMING ACT.

AN ACT WHICH SHOULD BE REPEALED.

In another column will be found an account of a police court case which is of much interest to racegoers. From this it will be seen that the proprietor of this Journal was fined for publishing advertisements from turf accountants. It will be noted that Mr. Dyer, S.M., in giving his decision against this paper, was not altogether certain that his ruling was a correct one, in which most people will cordially agree with him. He said that he would be pleased to offer every facility to take the case to a higher Court, and if he was wrong the higher Court would put him right.

Now, we have no grievance whatever against Mr. Dyer, who is a most conscientious magistrate, and, although we entirely disagree with his reading as to the meaning of the Act, we are compelled to abide by it. What we do take exception to, as, indeed, we have done all along, is the cause of all the trouble—viz., the Act itself, which is one of the most absurd bits of farcical legislation ever placed on the Statute-book of the Dominion, and that is saying much. Here we have an Act which allows bookmakers to do business, but does not allow them to notify the public that such is the case. Could absurdity go further? It is an Act which allows the use of the totalisator, the Government deriving a revenue from it, but which refuses to allow the dividends to be published, although the dividends are the sole *raison d'être* for the totalisator. These dividends are publicly notified to everybody on the course, who pass along the information to those who do not attend; but the newspaper must not say a word about them. This strongly suggests the action of the ostrich, which, hiding its head in the ground, thinks it cannot be seen. This extremely crude effort at legislation, badly digested and ungrammatical as it is, would be amusing if it were not so vexatious, and it has made us the laughingstock of the world. The English footballers, when it was explained to them, refused to look upon it otherwise than as a joke; while the American sailors never could grasp how such an inane law could be tolerated by common-sense individuals. If a shopkeeper was allowed to sell goods, but was not allowed to advertise the fact, or if the members of the Stock Exchange were allowed to buy and sell shares, but were not permitted to publish the quotations for them, there would very

soon be an outcry, and the public would demand the instant repeal of such a ridiculous enactment. Yet this is exactly analogous to some of the provisions of the Gaming and Lotteries Amendment Act.

The fact is, and it is no use burking it, this most objectionable measure was most hurriedly conceived as a sop to the clerical party, was badly drawn up, and most ill-considered. Intended no doubt to stamp out gambling, it has done nothing whatever of the sort, as anyone with any knowledge of human nature must have known would prove the case.

It is a matter for general complaint that our best men do not nowadays go to Parliament, and that all interest in politics is fast dying out. Also it has been suggested if the Chamber at Wellington was closed for the next ten years the country would be saved an infinity of expense, and would be so much the better off. When one considers the exceedingly little worth of the bills passed during the last twelve months, and what the country has paid for them, there seems a great deal of merit in the contention. What will have to be stopped, however, is the constant whittling away of the liberty of the subject, and the passing of unnecessary laws, which are neither asked for or required. Such a measure is the Gaming Act, which is vexatious, unnecessary, and has proved an utter failure. Its prompt repeal should be one of the earliest acts when the new Parliament is gathered together.

EGMONT-WANGANUI HUNT CLUB.

There was some good racing at the annual race meeting of the Egmont-Wanganui Hunt Club, held on Thursday, 27th August, and the gathering was in every way one of the most enjoyable yet held by the club. The weather was beautifully fine, and the attendance fair, while the fields were good. Some excellent jumping was witnessed, and several of the competitors should be heard of later on in other than hunting events. The gathering was well managed, and the officials are to be heartily congratulated on the success achieved, which should tend to popularise hunting on this coast.

The proceedings opened with the Hack Hurdles, which fell to Mr. J. Wilkie's Cloudy Morn, a six-year-old gelding by Sou'-wester—Vigorous. There were four starters, Xavier being made favourite, with Cavil next in demand. The latter made a big effort, but Cloudy Morn beat the Natator gelding at the finish after a good race by two lengths.

The Licensed Victuallers' Handicap Steeplechase followed, six facing the starter. King John was looked upon as the most likely winner, but though the Bay King gelding took his obstacles in fine style and was in the van a quarter of a mile from home, Gone Away (by Handsome Jack) tackled him in the straight and got home after a most interesting race by some four lengths. The jumping was good throughout.

Then came the Open Hack Handicap of four furlongs, for which ten started, the winner turning up in Over-time, a five-year-old gelding owned by Mr. Fred. Faber and trained by Frank Lind. The son of Musketry—Leonessa jumped off the mark well, and galloping strongly never gave anything else a chance, winning with the greatest ease by three lengths in 51½. Judging by the manner in which he handled himself, this gelding should win more important races before long. He is a very quick beginner for such a big fellow, and gallops in nice even style. Old Sedgemoor was made favourite, but he had to be content with third place. Saltpetre (who put in a very fast run at the finish) being second.

The Hunters' Hurdles, one mile and a-half, brought out a field of five. This was an excellent race. Taupo (the favourite) led until the straight was reached, where Kauroa got on terms, and the pair raced neck and neck to the last hurdle. Here Valima came on the scene, and the three took the obstacle together, but Valima crashed into the hurdle and came a terrible cropper, turning a somersault apparently right on top of her rider (Mr. D.

Buick). Fortunately the latter escaped without injury. The other pair fought out a desperate finish, victory resting with Kauroa by a quarter of a length. The winner is a five-year-old black gelding, owned by Mr. H. J. Cameron, who had the mount himself. By Captain Webb out of Sassapas, a mare Mr. Donald Fraser used to race, and which was a good performer, Kauroa is bred to jump. He is at present in very poor condition, but should be capable of winning something better if properly trained.

The Second Open Hack of five furlongs fell to Research, the four-year-old Renown gelding, trained by Frank Lind and owned by Mr. G. Frimley. He got off the mark smartly, and never left the issue in doubt. Tonderghie (by Daunt) was second all the way. There were five other starters. Time, 1m. 10 1-5s.

The big event—the Hunt Club Steeplechase—came next. Six went to the post, and a splendid race was witnessed. Rapanui and King John led the way for about two miles, the jumping being first-class so far, but here Gone Away came to grief through clearing a fence into the training track, Mr. Carter (his rider) getting a nasty spill. The leading pair were well out in front now, but Awatere put in a big run, and was rapidly reducing the gap, when he came a cropper, and immediately afterwards King John came down. This left Rapanui with such a big lead that his victory was being loudly proclaimed, when Cavil began to move up, and, being driven along, could be seen to be rapidly overhauling the fast-tring Rapanui. The latter made a big effort when Cavil drew alongside, and the pair were driven at the last fence together. Both got over safely, and a great race up the straight ended in a win for Cavil by less than a length. Had Rapanui got home the victory would have been immensely popular, as he is such a game old battler, and, moreover, is owned by such a genuine sport as Mr. J. Blair. Cavil is owned by Mr. Chas. Gordon, and is by Natator. The owner is also a real good sport, and was heartily congratulated on his win.

The concluding event—the Ladies' Bracelet, one mile and a distance, was won by Mrs. D. Buick's gelding Netherby (by Son of a Gun) from old Starfish. Sedgemoor and six others also ran.

THE AVONDALE JOCKEY CLUB.

The date for the holding of the spring meeting is drawing on apace, and this recalls the fact that owners should not overlook the time for the closing of general entries. The events to be dealt with and amounts required are as follows.—Maiden Plate Handicap 1sov, First Handicap Hurdles 1sov, Plunket Handicap 1sov, Henderson Handicap 1sov, Second Handicap Hurdles 1sov, President's Handicap 1sov, Nursery Handicap 1sov, Nihotapu Handicap 1sov, Kingsland Handicap 1sov, Mount Albert Handicap 1sov, Maiden Handicap Hurdle Race 1sov, New Lynn Handicap 1sov, Welter Handicap 1sov, Second Handicap Steeplechase 1sov, Grandstand Handicap 1sov, Electric Handicap 1sov, Members' Handicap 1sov, Publicans' Handicap 1sov. Mr. H. H. Hayr, the secretary, will take entries up to 9 p.m. to-morrow (Friday), on which date final payments for the Avondale Stakes and Avondale Guineas must also be made. The full programme appears in another column.

A GREAT AUCKLAND-BRED MARE.

Last year Prophecy ran third in the Kalgoorlie Cup with 9.4, but that form, consequent on the way she had been acquitting herself in shorter races previously, was only good enough to raise a doubt as to whether a mile and a-half was not a trifle far for her (says the "Referee.") That such is not the case she demonstrated by winning last Wednesday's Kalgoorlie Cup very easily with 9.6, Czarovitch running second, and Quibble (7.3) third. As was only to be expected, Prophecy had an easy task in the Kalgoorlie Stakes, a seven-furlong weight-for-age race, run on the concluding day, and it is safe to say that she is the best mare racing in Australia at the present time. As a yearling she was sold at Auckland

at 57gs., and commenced her racing career in West Australia, where, at her second start, she won a two-year-old race in Perth. In all she has won 13 races out of 24 starts, so her record is a particularly payable one. She is by a St. Simon horse, Phoebus Apollo, from Problem, for whom Mr. Sol. Green recently gave 750gs.

THE WELLINGTON PONY AND GALLOWAY RACING CLUB.

This club proposes to hold a meeting on the Miramar racecourse, Wellington, on Saturday, September 26, when the following programme will be submitted:—The Encourage Handicap of 20sovs (14.2 and under), four furlongs; the Maiden Handicap of 15 sovs (15 and under, maidens), four and a-half furlongs; Spring Cup of 60 sovs (15 and under), seven furlongs; Wonderland Handicap of 25sovs (14.2 and under), four furlongs; September Handicap of 20sovs (14.3 and under), five and a-half furlongs; Flying Handicap of 40sovs (15 and under), four and a-half furlongs. Mr. J. M. Cumming, the managing steward and secretary, will take entries up to 9 p.m. on Monday, September 14. Then comes a meeting on October 17, after which meetings will take place every month throughout the season.

NOTES.

(By The Judge.)

John Chaafé, sen., returned from Gisborne last week, where he has been for some time past.

The Messrs. Stead do not intend to send any horses over to Sydney to run at the A.J.C. Spring Meeting.

W. O'Connell rode four winners at the Amberley steeplechase meeting.

Cross Battery and Sea King were shipped to Sydney last week.

The death is reported of the brown gelding Uhlander (Uhlán—Dolly), as the result of an acute attack of strangles. Mr. Renwick's gelding was a fair performer, winning among other races the Waitemata Handicap at Ellerslie, the Whangarei Cup, and the Tradesmen's Plate at Hamilton, and the Birthday Handicap of 450 sovs. at Ellerslie. He was insured for £200.

Master Soult has made a good recovery from his recent accident, and has been out on the tracks each morning recently doing light work.

Handicaps for the first day of the Wanganui J.C. spring meeting are due from Mr. Morse on September 11.

Mr. Wynyard will declare his adjustments for the first day of the Avondale meeting next Monday.

Miss Winnie and Sir Artagal have been scratched from the Flying Handicap at Avondale, while Uranium's name has disappeared from the Cup.

The English St. Leger will be decided next Wednesday on the famous Doncaster Town Moor.

The attention of the stewards of the English Jockey Club having been called to the fact that shoes having a sharp flange round the outer edge of the shoe, to prevent slipping, have been used on horses running in races, they have given notice that they consider such shoes, and those known as American toe-clipped shoes, very dangerous to other competitors, and direct that horses running in them shall be disqualified, and the trainer responsible reported to them.

During the last five seasons, descendants of Grafton have won 782 races, valued at £96,958. Other successful sires during the same period were:—Lochiel, 633 races, £65,180; Wallace, 230 races, £62,417; Positano, 156 races, £55,627.