



RACING.

(BY "THE JUDGE.")



RACING CALENDAR.

SEASON 1908-09.

FIXTURES.

- Jan. 20, 22, 23—Wellington R.C.
- Jan. 22, 23—Gore R.C.
- Jan. 22, 23—Foxton R.C.
- Jan. 23—Ohaupo R.C.
- Jan. 27, 28—Pahiatua R.C.
- Jan. 27, 28—Tapanui R.C.
- Jan. 29, 30, Feb. 3—Takapuna J.C.
- Feb. 4—Kariori J.C. Hack
- Feb. 4, 5—Gisborne R.C.
- Feb. 4 and 5—Manitoto J.C.
- Feb. 4 and 6—C.J.C.
- Feb. 11—Te Puke Jockey Club
- Feb. 10 and 11—Egmont R.C. Summer
- Feb. 11 and 12—Poverty Bay T.C.
- Feb. 17, 18—Woodville District J.C.
- Feb. 17, 18—Rotorua J.C.
- Feb. 24, 25, 27—Dunedin J.C.
- Feb. 26, 27—South Auckland R.C.
- March 1, 2—Te Aroha J.C.
- March 4, 6—Wanganui J.C.
- March 6—Waihi J.C.
- March 9—Akaroa County R.C.
- March 10, 11—Dannevirke J.C.
- March 12, 13—Tolaga Bay J.C.
- March 13—Thames J.C.
- March 15—Waimana R.C.
- March 17, 18—Ohinemuri J.C.
- March 17—Opunake R.C.
- March 17, 18—Napier Park R.C.
- March 17, 18—Westport J.C.
- March 18—Waimate R.C.
- March 24—Waipawa County R.C.
- March 24, 25—South Canterbury J.C.
- March 24, 25—Taranaki J.C.
- March 26, 27—North Wairoa R.C.
- April 10, 12, 13—Auckland R.C.

NOMINATIONS.

- Jan. 30—Poverty Bay T.C.
- Jan. 5—Gisborne R.C.
- Jan. 25—Wanganui J.C.
- Jan. 26—Gisborne R.C.
- Feb. 26—Taranaki J.C.
- March 5—Auckland R.C. (special events)
- March 19—Auckland R.C.

HANDICAPS.

- Feb. 5—Poverty Bay T.C.
- Feb. 13—Wanganui J.C. (special events)
- Feb. 20—Wanganui J.C.
- March 12—Taranaki J.C.
- March 15—Auckland R.C. (special events)
- March 26—Auckland Racing Club.

ACCEPTANCES.

- Jan. 22—Takapuna J.C.
- Jan. 26—Gisborne R.C.
- Feb. 6—Poverty Bay T.C.
- Feb. 26—Wanganui J.C.
- March 19—A.R.C. (special events)
- March 19—Taranaki J.C.
- April 2—A.R.C.

SECOND FORFEIT.

- Feb. 5—A.R.C. Champagne Stakes and Oaks.

THE METROPOLITAN COMMITTEE AND THE AVONDALE DISQUALIFICATIONS.

It is related of Augeas, king of the Epelians in Elis, that he kept three thousand cattle for thirty years in stables that were never cleaned. It fell to that old-time strong man, Hercules, to clean the stalls, and it is said that he did so in a day by turning two rivers into them. This was doubtless a drastic method of executing the task, but it was a very effective one. We have a somewhat similar parallel in Auckland to-day. It has been felt for a long time that racing in Auckland had drifted into a state which badly needed alteration, and rumours were piled upon the top of rumours that things were constantly done which necessitated strong measures being taken to check.

Matters culminated with the Spring Meeting of the Avondale Jockey Club, and, urged thereto by popular clamour, the stewards of that body decided to take upon themselves the task of cleansing racing from the mire which threatened to engulf it. It was a commendable thing to do, but, unlike the mythological story, it proved very far from being a one-day task. On the contrary, the stewards met time after time, calling witness after witness, and hearing a vast mass of evidence. Among those called before the A.J.C. tribunal were D. Moraghan, B. Deeley, Claude Brown, C. Nicholson, J. Gallagher, A. Julian, S. G. Lindsay, J. Lynch, A. Whittaker, C. Cress, J. Conolly, J. Winder, P. Brady, H. Pell, N. Cunningham, G. Robinson, and M. Ryan. Matters were carefully sifted to the very bottom, and as the result of an exhaustive

inquiry, which extended over nearly three months, the following disqualifications were imposed:—A. Julian, six months; Mark Ryan, rider of Royal Soult, two years; S. G. Lindsay, owner-trainer of Royal Soult, two years; the horse Royal Soult, two years; Norman Cunningham, trainer of Lucio, and the horse Lucio, for life; A. Whittaker, two years; H. Pell, twelve months; P. Smith, six months. It is hardly necessary to add that the finding of the stewards made a great sensation, and has proved a fruitful topic of conversation in racing circles ever since. The Avondale Club then forwarded a full report of the inquiry to the Auckland Metropolitan Committee for endorsement of the sentences, as they were bound to do by the Rules of Racing, and there, so far as they were concerned, their task was ended.

Much interest was naturally taken by the public as to the action of the governing body in the matter. Several meetings were called, with more postponements, and as a consequence of the latter, sinister rumours were afloat that great efforts were being made by the interested parties to endeavour to get the metropolitan body to refuse endorsement of the disqualifications. "Wheels within wheels" is the kind of procedure which is not unknown in Auckland, but it was hotly argued against this that the integrity of the Metropolitan Committee would remain unshaken, and that the principle of justice and fair play to all would be the keynote of their action. The evidence to be considered was of a very voluminous nature, and it has taken nearly a month to come to a decision, while even now the matter has not been quite completed.

At a special meeting on Tuesday, the committee decided to endorse the disqualification of Lindsay, Ryan, Pell, Smith, A. Julian, and the horse Royal Soult, while the cases of N. Cunningham, A. Whittaker, and the horse Lucio will be taken at another meeting to-morrow.

It is difficult to express any opinion on the case without reading the evidence, and for the good of racing generally it is perhaps a pity that this could not be published. From the fact, however, that both the A.J.C. and the A.R.C. Metropolitan Committee deemed such wholesale disqualifications necessary it is evident that the cases were very bad ones. Had the Avondale Club not been supported and confirmed in its effort for reform, there is no gainsaying the fact that an infinity of harm would have been done to racing. For some time there has been a great feeling of uneasiness that all has not been as it should be, and this would have been increased a thousandfold had nothing been done. One may greatly regret to see well-known and popular horsemen, such as Mark Ryan and A. Julian, asked to stand down; but surely such as they should have realised the truth of the old adage, "Honesty is the best policy." If, instead, they prefer to run what in racing slang are known as "war risks," they must abide by the consequences. What the public are chiefly concerned about is that at last a determined effort has been made to safeguard their interests and to eradicate what was undoubtedly a growing evil. Whether it will prove efficacious remains to be seen, but for the effort the Avondale Jockey Club is deserving of warm praise. It has been a heavy task, and one which should never have fallen to the lot of honorary officials. A stronger proof in favour of the appointment of stipendiary stewards could not possibly be adduced.

THE OTAHUHU TROTTER CLUB'S SUMMER MEETING.

It may be well to remind owners that entries for this meeting close with the secretary, Mr. Fred. Yonge, at his office, Durham-street, to-morrow (Friday) evening at 9 o'clock. The programme will be found in another column, and as it is well arranged and carries good money in stakes, it should attract a large entry.

THE TAKAPUNA J.C. SUMMER MEETING.

The time for holding this popular fixture draws on apace, for the flags will be flying on the seaside racecourse on January 29, 30 and February 3. A good deal of attention is being centred in the coming reunion, which bids fair to prove highly successful. The notice of owners is called to the fact that acceptances for the first day's events must be made to Mr. R. Wynyard, the secretary, by 9 o'clock to-morrow (Friday) evening. The events and amounts required are as follows:—Calliope Handicap 1sov, Handicap Maiden Plate 1sov, Zealandia Handicap 1sov, Takapuna Cup Handicap 5sovs, Ferry Handicap 1sov Orewa Handicap Hurdles 1sov, Stewards' Handicap 1sov, First Pony Handicap 1sov.

THE WANGANUI J.C. AUTUMN MEETING.

The autumn meeting of the Wanganui Jockey Club will take place on Thursday and Saturday, March 4 and 6, and for it a very liberally-endowed programme has been drawn up, particulars of which will be found in our advertising columns. Owners who intend nominating should bear in mind that general entries close with Mr. W. Hall, the secretary, Box 15 G.P.O., Wanganui, on Monday next, Jan. 25 at 9 p.m. The events for which entries are called are the Stewards' Handicap, Petre Hack Handicap, Westmere Hurdle Race, Tayforth Handicap Hack Hurdles, Wanganui Cup, Juvenile Handicap, Wiritoa Hack Flat Handicap, Flying Handicap, Autumn Handicap, Matarawa Hack Flat Handicap, Fordell Hurdle Race, Okoia Handicap Hack Hurdles, Wanganui Stakes Handicap, Harrison Hack Handicap, Farewell Handicap, the entry fee being 1sov in each case.

THE TARANAKI JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

The Autumn Meeting of the Taranaki Jockey Club will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, March 24 and 25, and for it a capital programme has been drawn up. This, which appears in another column, shows eight races on each day. The events on the opening day are the Kawawa Hack Hurdles of 60 sovs, one and a-half miles; the Stewards' Handicap of 100 sovs., five furlongs; the Pukaka Hack Handicap of 65 sovs., six furlongs; the Taranaki Cup of 300 sovs., one and a-quarter miles; the First Welter Handicap of 100 sovs., one mile; the Kaitaki Hack Handicap of 65 sovs., one mile; the Flying Handicap of 110 sovs., six furlongs; the Hack Scurry of 50 sovs., five furlongs.

On the second day the items are the Pukotori Hack Hurdles of 60 sovs, one and a-half miles; the Grandstand Handicap of 100 sovs., five furlongs; the Wharepapa Hack Handicap of 65 sovs., six furlongs; the Paul Memorial Handicap of 200 sovs., one mile and a distance; the Second Welter Handicap of 100 sovs., seven furlongs; the Kawanu Hack Handicap of 65 sovs, one mile; the Farewell Handicap of 80 sovs., six furlongs; and the Final Hack Flutter of 50 sovs, five furlongs.

This is the best endowed fixture list the club has put forward for some time. It is evident the new secretary, Mr. E. P. Webster, does not intend to allow the grass to grow under his feet, and he may be relied upon to run the meeting on very up-to-date lines. Nominations are due on Friday, February 26, and the club has every right to expect a big entry list.

AUCKLAND METROPOLITAN COMMITTEE.

The Hon. E. Mitchelson presided at a meeting of the Metropolitan Committee, held on Monday evening. The disqualification was removed from the horse Cannoner for taking part in an unregistered meeting at Onewhero. Trainers' licenses were granted as follows:—A. Dixon, T. M. Morriss, W. F. O'Reilly, and C. Rasmussen. The

following club's programmes were passed:—Te Aroha Jockey Club, March 1 and 2; Waihi Jockey Club, March 6; Waimana Racing Club, March 15; Te Puke Jockey Club, February 11. The disqualifications by the Ngunguru Racing Club of R. McCorquindale, J. W. Anderton, and the horse Highland Fling were endorsed, but the term was extended to life. The disqualification by the Thames Jockey Club of the horse Lucio for the Bruce Handicap was endorsed, and the appeal of C. Nicholson (owner) dismissed.

A.R.C. COMMITTEE.

The Auckland Racing Club Committee met on Monday evening, the Hon. E. Mitchelson presiding. The following transfers were passed:—Manawatu Stud Company to F. Dorset, bay colt, 1 yr, by Sir Laddo—Wepe; J. B. Reid: To G. D. Greenwood, bay colt, 1 yr, by Martian—Neva; to H. Whitney, brown colt, 1 yr, by St. Ambrose—Crimea; to D. Rutherford, bay filly, 1 yr, by St. Ambrose—Janet; to T. H. Lowry, bay colt, 1 yr, by St. Ambrose—St. Regis; to P. F. Tancred, brown colt, 1 yr, by St. Ambrose—Marlin; to G. P. Payne, brown colt, 1 yr, by Stepniak—Gipsy Countess; to E. J. Watt, brown colt, 1 yr, by Stepniak—Couronne; to J. R. McDonald, chestnut colt, 1 yr, by St. Ambrose—Bivalve; to G. P. Payne, bay colt, 1 yr, by Stepniak—Gitanella; to R. E. McRae, bay colt, 1 yr, by Stepniak—Cyre; to A. Macfarlane, brown filly, 1 yr, by St. Ambrose—Fanna. J. F. Reid: To M. Kavanagh, chestnut colt, 1 yr, by Stepniak—Armillia; to I. G. Duncan, brown colt, 1 yr, by Stepniak—Fairymaid; to J. W. S. Rimier, bay colt, 1 yr, by Stepniak—Illusion; to W. M. Hayes, brown colt, 1 yr, by Stepniak—Sortie; to H. Gaisford, brown filly, 1 yr, by Stepniak—Madder; to J. Grigg, brown colt, 1 yr, by Stepniak—Miss Dalrymple. Accounts amounting to £770 were passed for payment. The statement of accounts for the Summer Meeting, which showed it to have been a record one, was submitted and approved.

ROTORUA RACING CLUB.

A meeting of the Rotorua Racing Club was held last week, when the following officers were elected:—President, Mr. C. A. Clarke; patron, Mr. Herries, M.P.; vice-presidents, Messrs. W. D. B. McDonald, M.P., A. Munro, J. McMath, F. Goodson, and H. B. Hollick; secretary, Mr. A. E. Bryant; treasurer, Mr. J. W. Bayliss. Seventeen stewards were appointed to carry on the business of the club. The course has been ploughed and harrowed and sown down and is a vast improvement on the old track. At present the date of the meeting has not been decided upon, but it will take place as soon as the course is in proper condition to be raced upon.

THE MUSKET BLOOD.

It is known that as a yearling Musket, who was afterwards to attain such great celebrity, looked so weedy and unpromising that his owner, a nobleman gave orders that the youngster, as well as several others in the stud at the same time, was to be destroyed. Somebody with a voice in the management of affairs in connection with the stud begged that Musket, instead of being shot there and then, should be given a trial, and fortunately—especially for the turf in Australasia—this sound advice was acted upon. It would be impossible (writes "Sentinel" in the "Witness") to over-estimate the value of the services rendered to the turf in this country by Musket. The old horse is dead long since himself, but the family he founded first in New Zealand is still very much in evidence, and it will be a great misfortune for this country if ever the blood handed down from him is allowed to die out. Other valuable strains have, through neglect, been fairly crushed out of existence, but profiting by the lessons of the past it is to be hoped that we will not fall into the same error again. If Musket had but his mighty son Carbine alone as a foundation for his reputation he would