



RACING.

(BY "THE JUDGE.")



RACING CALENDAR.

SEASON 1908-09.

FIXTURES.

March 24, 25—South Canterbury J.C.
 March 24, 25—Taranaki J.C.
 March 26, 27—Northern Wairoa R.C.
 March 27, 31, and April 3—Auckland Trotting Club.
 March 31 and April 1—Southland R.C.
 March 31—Mania Hack R.C. Annual
 April 1—Rangitara R.C. Annual
 April 1 and 3—Nelson J.C. Annual
 April 1 and 2—Masterton R.C. Autumn
 April 3—North Canterbury J.C. Hack
 April 3—Wellington Pony Club
 April 5 and 6—Reefton J.C. Autumn
 April 8 and 9—Greymouth J.C. Autumn
 April 10, 12 and 13—Auckland R.C. Autumn
 April 24, 28—Avondale J.C.
 April 10, 12, 14, and 17—A.J.C. Autumn
 April 10 and 12—Wairarapa R.C. Autumn
 April 12 and 13—Riverton R.C. Annual
 April 12—Beaumont J.C. Annual
 April 12—Patea R.C. Annual Meeting
 April 12 and 13—Feilding J.C. Easter
 April 12 and 13—Kumara R.C. Autumn
 April 12 and 13—C.J.C. Autumn
 April 21 and 24—Wellington R.C. Autumn
 April 28 and 29—Manawatu R.C. Autumn
 May 5 and 6—Hawke's Bay J.C. Autumn

NOMINATIONS.

April 2—Avondale J.C. (special events)
 April 9—Avondale J.C.

HANDICAPS.

March 26—Auckland Racing Club.
 April 5—Avondale J.C. (special events)
 April 12—Avondale J.C.

ACCEPTANCES.

March 25—Wellington Pony Club
 April 2—A.R.C.
 April 16—Avondale J.C.

THE FAILURE OF THE GAMING ACT.

A BUNGLING MEASURE, WHICH MUST BE REPEALED.

When a number of people meet together to deal with a question concerning which the majority are densely ignorant, it is not surprising to find them making some stupid blunders. An excellent example of the truth of this may be found in the Gaming and Lotteries Act Amendment Act, generally known as the Gaming Act. As was pointed out at the time in these columns, this measure ranks as one of the most ill-considered Acts ever placed on the Statute-book of the Dominion, and in saying this one says much, for these are the days of experimental legislation. Seemingly it was drawn up so as to pander to the supposed wishes of the Council of the Churches, a body which is constantly passing motions concerning sporting subjects and other things with which it is not conversant at all. However, whoever was responsible for such a Bill matters not. It has had its trial, and has now been condemned on all hands as an utter and egregious blunder. Time after time its faults have been exposed in these columns, but a few of them are worth recapitulating. Newspapers are compelled to refrain from publishing totalisator dividends, although the Government legalises the totalisator and draws a revenue from it. Everyone who attends a racecourse knows what the dividends are, and these tell their friends, and the information is wired to all parts of the colony. The newspapers must not publish them however. This is outdoing the ostrich in one of its best known habits, and is surely worthy of comic opera. The newspapers are not allowed to give the market quotations before any race, the promoters of the Act evidently thinking this would stop ante-post betting. Nothing will stop betting, for it is an ingrained characteristic of the human race. What the Act has done, is to place the public at the mercy of the bookmakers in the matter of odds, for there are no means of verifying the truth of any quotation given. Now, we have many reputable bookmakers, and many who are quite the reverse, and these latter are thus given carte blanche to fleece the public as much as they like. One of the strongest indictments of this preposterous Act comes from the

police, who should be in a good position to know. Speaking of some of the men who are licensed as bookmakers by jockey clubs, a police officer at Christchurch said: "They have merely to collect enough money to pay the license fee, and then they are at liberty to prey upon the public. They are given a legal standing in the community. Formerly the police could deal with these men as vagrants, and did so. Now they cannot be touched, because they have a legal standing in the community. They are not without lawful visible means of support. They are licensed bookmakers. A man who wants a license to trade as a second-hand dealer has to pass the ordeal of a strict police examination into his character. There does not seem to be any examination at all into the character of the applicant for a bookmaker's license. The only qualification required is ability to pay the license fee. It looks as though some clubs wanted to ride the Act to death, and so disgust the public with the bookmakers that the totalisator will be allowed to have a monopoly of the racing business." Could further proof be wanting of the absurdity of retaining this badly conceived Act. It must be repealed, and that speedily; but if new legislation is attempted, then members should be compelled to consult some of the many experts on racing questions, instead of devising idiotic laws concerning matters about which their ignorance is abyssmal.

AUCKLAND TROTTING CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

COMMENCES ON SATURDAY.

The Auckland Trotting Club's Autumn Meeting will be commenced on Saturday next, when, with fine weather, it may be confidently expected that the attendance will be a record one. The reason for this is that in addition to the ordinary good sport provided, spectators will have an opportunity of seeing two crack trotters being sent against time, with the prospect of securing good purses if they succeed. Lord Elmo, who has come up from the South on purpose, and Specialist are the two down to make the attempts, which will be done in separate trials. In the mile, 2min. 18sec. has to be beaten, and should both horses do this, the one doing the fastest time will get the purse of 100 sovs. In the two-mile go, later on in the meeting, which is to be considered on Wednesday and Saturday, Father Time will stand on 4min. 48sec. and in the opinion of many experts the old scythe-bearer will be ousted in this round by Lord Elmo, but in the mile it may be otherwise. However, we shall see on Saturday. The club is to be warmly commended for the effort to cater for the best trotters in the Dominion, and thus improve trotting. The remainder of the events have drawn excellent acceptances, so there is good prospect of some fine all-round sport. Mr. C. F. Mark, the secretary, has all the arrangements properly fixed up for the smooth running of the meeting. A number of extra cars will be put on the Epsom run, so that no difficulty will be experienced in reaching the convincing ground. All that is wanted to achieve a big success is fine weather. The first race starts at one p.m. The acceptances are as follows:

STEWARDS' HANDICAP, two miles.—Scotia scratch, Princess Ena scratch, Waitekauri 13s., Barmeguide 13s., Kohine 14s., John Harold 14s., Bogey 16s., All Night 16s., Harold Abdullah 17s., Tableau 17s., Huon Leal 18s.
 CORNWALL HANDICAP, one mile.—Specialist scratch, Princess Ena 2s., Rother 6s., Le Roster 6s., Scotia 6s., V.E. 8s., Waitekauri 10s., Mandarene 12s., Autocrat 12s., Dan Tracey 13s., Bogey 13s.
 MAIDEN HANDICAP, one mile and a-half.—Rita W. scratch, Black Mire 4s., Jungle 5s., General A. 6s., Citizens' League 6s., Black Temple 6s., Elk 6s., The Dove 6s., Mikado 12s., Inaha 12s., Marama 13s., Timidity 13s., Cora Bell 13s., Bell G. 13s., Elba 13s.
 MIDDLE-CLASS HANDICAP, one mile and a-half.—Harold Huon 5s., Cleveland's Pride 9s., Huanui 11s., Bert 11s., Doydawn 12s., Wilhelmina 13s., Castaway 14s., Nelson 14s., Lady Park 14s., Janitor 18s., Black Temple 18s., Minnie B. 20s., Dan 21s., Major Election 23s., Mikado 23s.
 HOBSON HARNESS TROT, one mile and a-half.—Le Roster scratch, Barmeguide 7s., John Harold 10s., Pierotte 14s.,

Count 18s., Royal Albert 25s., Green Lavender 25s., Queen Anne 30s.
 TRITING HANDICAP, two miles.—Rober scratch, Little Paul 8s., Harold Huon 14s., Kirikiriroa 16s., Bert 22s., Rita W. 24s., Lady Park 26s., Castaway 26s., Green Lavender 28s., Albert Edward 29s., Janitor 32s., Major Election 34s.
 ELECTRIC HANDICAP, one mile.—Maplewood scratch, Rosebud 4s., Irish Molly 6s., Pierotte 8s., Pukerimu 8s., Ballot 9s., Rosie Wilkes 10s., Iago 10s., Macquarie 11s., Miss Tuxie 12s., Colenso 13s., Bert 13s., Royal Victor 17s.
 AUTUMN PONY HANDICAP, about four furlongs and a-half.—Mahinga 9.7, Mistime 8.10, Frontino 8.4, Elenore 7.13, Norma 7.7, Matarere 7.5, Quadroon 7.5, Leo Grand 7.4, Starling 7.2, Celebrity 7.2, Maika 7.0, Laurel Wreath 6.10, Nora Sout 6.10, Cisco Rose 6.10.
 The following nominations were received in connection with the purse offered for time record breaking:—
 Purse of 100sovs (for trotting horse putting up the fastest time record for one mile, time limit 2m. 18s.): Lord Elmo, Specialist.
 Purse of 100sovs (for trotting horse putting up the fastest time record for two miles, time limit 4m. 48s.): Lord Elmo.

THE AUCKLAND RACING CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

ENTRY DAY IS TO-MORROW.

The time for holding the Autumn Meeting of the Auckland Racing Club draws on apace, and indications at present point to another big success. Owners are now reminded that nominations for the following races close with Mr. J. F. Hartland, the secretary, at 9 p.m. to-morrow (Friday) evening: Tradesmen's Handicap, Eden Handicap, Victoria Handicap, Nelson Handicap, Tramway Handicap, Stewards' Handicap, Eilerslie Handicap, Huia Handicap, Mangere Handicap, Electric Handicap, Maiden Hurdle Handicap, Gore-Browne Handicap, Onslow Stakes Handicap, St. Helier's Hurdles, Buckland Handicap, Tourist Handicap, Auckland Welter Handicap.
 At the same time acceptances must be made for the Brighton Hurdles, Easter Handicap and Autumn Steeplechase.

SUCCESSFUL JOCKEYS.

In his always interesting notes, "Bondi," of the "Sydney Referee," refers to three crack horsemen as follows:—
 "Knowledge is power," and we have proof of it in the fact that it was little Frank or "Knickerbocker" Wootton's knowledge of race-riding that recently enabled him to refuse the princely retaining fee of £2000 a year. Little Frank's knowledge of his art has placed him second on England's winning jockeys' list for the past year, and it is publicly stated that his income is now £5000 per annum. Provided the boy has the natural abilities for race riding, there is no game a father can place his son at that will give the lad the chances of becoming a millionaire than a jockey's position does.
 But it would seem that, like the poet, a jockey must be born to his business. Long before Mr. Wootton's clever son went to show the British boys how to ride, the two Reiffs (Lester and Johnnie) went over from the United States on a similar mission, and their success was something marvellous. In the year 1900, Lester Reiff topped the list of winning jockeys in England by scoring 143 first places, that being the first time a foreign jockey ever held that honour. And Little Johnnie held third place with 124 wins to his credit. And Johnnie was then even younger than Frank Wootton is now, and was well pleased when a kind-hearted old lady would give him an apple or a bag of lollies. He was only thirteen years of age then, and he won that splendid prize, the Prince of Wales's Stakes, of £10,000, at Newmarket.
 Like all other good jockeys, the Reiffs kept their business to themselves, and no one could fix their winnings to a cent, but it is very certain that at the end of the first year the two boys had banked £8000; and it is equally clear that when they arrived at their lowly home in Toledo, Ohio, they gladdened their old father's eyes with the sight of £40,000 of British money.
 It is a pleasing thing to state that most young jockeys who meet with

luck like this make it their first duty to provide for their parents' future comfort, and make them glad they reared such good and clever children. I could name several similar cases of young Australian jockeys, but, unfortunately, their wins ran into hundreds only, while the Yankee lads spoke of thousands. It is a queer business this, A rich man spends thousands of pounds on his son's education and start in life, and the lad is never worth more than thirty bob a week to anyone. A poor, struggling blacksmith or trainer gives his boy a slice of fried bread and a pair of German silver spurs, and the boy goes off and earns more every year than an English Prime Minister can!

TROTTING IN VICTORIA.

£1300 IN PRIZE-MONEY.

The sport of trotting is at the present time being liberally encouraged in Victoria through the instrumentality of the Melbourne Trotting Club, of which Mr. J. Wren is the manager. An advertisement appearing in the present issue, relating as it does to an aggregate prize offering of £1300, is worthy of the attention of owners of trotters and pacers throughout Australasia. Two of the items, £300 and £500 respectively, are for Sires' Produce events, to be run off in July, 1910, and July, 1911, and nominations for these are due with the secretary, Mr. A. J. Gray, 197 Bourke Street, Melbourne, on March 31st (inst.). These events are for present yearlings and foals, and will be contested in harness. To meet the exigencies of the case as regards owners here, the management announces that nominations posted in New Zealand on or before 31st inst. will be accepted.
 The Futurity Five Hundred Race (£500), which will be run on the Richmond Racecourse on Friday, September 3 next, is for trotters and pacers. Nominations for this event are due on April 20, and the fee is £3. Full particulars of this interesting contest are given in the advertisement. The first acceptance (fee £5) is due on July 1.

DID SOULTLINE WIN THE NEW-MARKET HANDICAP?

Such a question at first sight savours of the superfluous. The judge has declared the Auckland won, and the stakes have been duly paid out, and that, as far as any practical result is concerned, ends the matter. The question, however, still remains—Did he really win? There is an old saying that the camera cannot lie, and I must confess to thinking, after seeing an instantaneous photo. of the finish, that Dunolly had beaten him. In this picture, taken about two yards from the post, Dunolly appears to be in front, and all accounts say that he was finishing very fast. He was wide out, however, and much nearer the judge's box than Soultline, who was on the rails, and one knows how an optical illusion always favours the more distant object. Evidently there is much doubt about the accuracy of the placing, for "The Australasian" says that a great many people think now that Dunolly won, but, of course, what the judge says "goes" on these occasions. If the photograph could be developed quickly enough, a man in the box with a camera would put an end to all arguments. With two horses finishing as far apart as Soultline and Dunolly did, it may be a difficult matter to decide at times, but I fancy it rarely happens that a mistake is made. Still, there is no reason why a judge should be infallible, and it would settle the matter effectually if the camera could be utilised. The difficulty is that the result could not be produced at once. It would never do to have the instrument which cannot lie contradicting the judge afterwards. At present no man with a camera can get the exact line that the judge obtains, but the photograph of "The Australasian" last week shows pretty clearly that Irishman did not finish within a neck of Dunolly. In such a close finish the judge would have enough to do without riveting his attention on the third horse.