



RACING.



RACING CALENDAR.

SEASON 1908-09.

FIXTURES.

May 22 and 24—Takapuna J.C. Winter
 May 22 and 24—Wanganui J.C. Winter
 June 3 and 4—Otaki Maori R.C. Winter
 June 3 and 4—Dunedin J.C. Winter
 June 3, 5, and 9—Auckland R.C. Winter
 June 3—Wellington Pony Meeting
 July 8 and 9—Gisborne R.C. Winter

NOMINATIONS.

June 2—Gisborne R.C. Winter
 June 16 and 17—Hawke's Bay J.C. Winter
 June 23 and 24—Napier Park R.C. Winter

HANDICAPS.

May 22—Auckland R.C. (first day)
 May 22—Wellington Pony Meeting
 May 25—Otaki Maori R.C. Winter
 May 25—Dunedin J.C. Winter
 June 19—Gisborne R.C. (first day)
 June 19—Hawke's Bay J.C. Winter
 June 18—Napier Park R.C. Winter

ACCEPTANCES.

May 22—Takapuna J.C. (Second Day)
 May 28—A.R.C. (first day)
 May 28—Dunedin J.C. Winter
 May 28—Otaki Maori R.C. Winter
 June 11—Hawke's Bay J.C. Winter
 June 19—Napier Park R.C. Winter
 June 30—Gisborne R.C. (first day)

FINAL PAYMENTS.

May 28—A.R.C. Great Northern Hurdle Race
 June 4—A.R.C. Great Northern Steeplechase.

THE BOOKMAKERS AND THE RACING CLUBS.

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SPIELER?

A pretty little controversy has been started by Mr. S. Mays, of the Crown Prosecutor's Office, who recently stated at Thames that "the legalising of bookmakers has resulted in the introduction into the Dominion of a most undesirable class of 'spielers.'" The Hon. E. Mitchelson, chairman of the Auckland Racing Club, in supporting the statement, told a Press representative the other day that prior to the introduction of the present Act the club had taken steps to purify racing, and all objectionable characters were ejected by the police. Since the passing of the Act, however, the previous bad state of affairs had undoubtedly grown up again. Mr. Mitchelson's attention was called to the provisions of the Gaming Act, which empower the racing clubs to license "fit and proper persons" as bookmakers, and he was asked whether he did not think that gave the clubs discretionary power in ascertaining the characters of applicants before licensing them. He replied with another question—how was it possible for racing clubs to differentiate between bookmakers? A number of bookmakers applied for licenses who were without the means to pay possible losses, and, even amongst the moneyed bookmakers, Mr. Mitchelson thinks there are some whose characters will not bear any closer investigation than those of the men who are unable to pay their losses. Legalising bookmakers had undoubtedly tended to bring an undesirable class of men on to the racecourses. Mr. Mitchelson added that although the Act did give the discretionary power referred to, the difficulty was to differentiate between the applicants. One solution would be the repeal of the present Act, and, personally, he would like to see it repealed.

DR. FINDLAY'S VIEW.

Mr. Mitchelson's opinions and views are certainly entitled to be treated with respect. But so also are those of the Attorney-General, the Hon. Dr. Findlay, who, commenting upon the statement made by Mr. Mays and endorsed by Mr. Mitchelson, and the further remarks of the latter gentleman, said (also to a press representative) that the legislation assumed that the racing clubs would exercise a wise and careful discretion in granting such licenses, and would grant them to no bookmaker of whose character and standing there was any real doubt. "I know," Dr. Findlay said, "that some

clubs have, for the purpose of discrediting the legislation, granted licenses to any person calling himself a bookmaker who chooses to pay the license fee, thus making the bookmaker at once a source of profit and a source of discredit to the racecourse. It seems, at least in some cases, that the bitterest critics of the legislation are those who have done their best to bring it into discredit. In my experience, if proper care and discretion is exercised by the racing clubs, and only such men are licensed as bookmakers as can be relied upon to meet their engagements and behave properly, the evils complained of would largely, if not wholly, disappear." Dr. Findlay added that in his judgment the racing clubs owe a duty to the public who frequent their courses to license no bookmaker without making proper investigation as to his finances and character.

THE POWERS OF THE CLUBS.

Dr. Findlay's view seems to us to be borne out by the Act itself. In drawing attention to the mandatory nature of section 35 of the Gaming Act, some time back we pointed out that the direction to the Racing Clubs authorised to use the totalisator to grant licenses to bookmakers is ruled by the proviso that, "in the opinion of the committee or other managing body of such club," such bookmakers must be "fit and proper" persons to be so licensed. What really is lacking is the machinery required to enable the clubs to deal with such applications in the manner intended by the section referred to. While the extent of the license fee which may be charged is prescribed, the business apparently ends there, so far as the Act is concerned. The Racing Clubs, however, have power (within the limits of the Act) over the courses controlled by them. They can make the necessary by-laws for regulating the behaviour of the crowds frequenting the racecourse, and it should not be a very difficult matter for the Racing Conference to decide a joint plan of action, which would be successful in eliminating from the bookmaking fraternity licensed by the clubs the highly undesirable spieler class, which has again made its appearance on the race courses of the Dominion. There are bookmakers and bookmakers—some very honest and honourable men, others again whose word and bond are as unreliable as it is possible for them to be. Ways and means of discriminating between them should be devisable, and it is satisfactory to have Mr. Mitchelson's assurance that the subject is to have the attention of the Racing Conference when it meets in July.

TAKAPUNA JOCKEY CLUB'S WINTER MEETING.

TO BE OPENED ON SATURDAY.

The racing season in Auckland for 1909 is fast drawing to a close, and local sports who are content to take their racing without going away from home have but two meetings to go to at which they can take part. The meetings referred to are the Takapuna Jockey Club's Winter and the Auckland Racing Club's Great Northern meetings. At Devonport on Saturday the Takapuna Club will start the ball rolling, and with capital acceptances for each of the seven events which go to make up the programme, those who make the journey across to the marine suburb should have no cause to complain of the outing provided, if, of course, there are no "Masseys" or "Millars," to use Mr. C. Wragge's terms, creating any disturbances. However, it is to be hoped that the weather conditions are favourable, and should this be so, a large attendance may be reckoned upon. Patrons will no doubt miss the steeplechase from the programme, which had to be omitted owing to several buildings being erected on the hill. Nevertheless, the club has substituted a maiden hurdle race, which should prove almost as interesting. A good deal of interest will be centred in the meeting owing to several of the candidates for the hurdle races being amongst those claiming an en-

agement in the Great Northern. The principal event of the first day's programme is the Empire Handicap, which claims an acceptance of 16, and which is run over a mile and a-quarter. Lochbuhie is in pride of place with 8st 8lb, but he has been decidedly off colour of late, and would have to improve a good deal on Avondale running to win the Empire. This he has evidently done, as he easily accounted for Bully and Escamillo over a mile and a-quarter the other morning. Sedition (8.7) I think is a "Sunday" horse, and generally runs well when least expected. Advocate (7.12) has been off the scene for some time, but Miss Winnie (7.11) has been given a good chance, taking her running in the Autumn Handicap at Avondale as a guide. For the race mentioned the daughter of Leolantia jumped out in front, and that was the end of the mile race so far as the winner was concerned. Evidently Scotty (7.10) has been treated as a light of other days, but the St. Leger gelding may be far from done. Scotty ran fourth in the race won by Spate at Ellerslie at the Easter meeting, and the chances are that he will improve a good deal on that running on Saturday. Waihuka, Bully, and Carmania all figure in the 7.0 division, and the latter will be remembered as putting up an attractive performance when she won the Avondale Handicap last month. Necktie (6.10) is galloping very attractively just now, and she may be relied upon to put up a sterling fight. The acceptances are as follows:—

MAIDEN PLATE, seven furlongs.—Waiotahi 8.6, Zinnia 8.4, Jill 7.12, Valentine 7.7, Luminator 7.4, Tamahere 7.2, Dainty 7.0, Waikuku 7.0, Seidom 7.0, Lady Jane 6.12, Castle Blaney 6.12, Toa Tere 6.10.

MAIDEN HURDLE RACE, one mile and a-half and 100yds.—Kremlin 10.7, Waikato 10.0, Tui Cabour 9.12, Bully 9.10, Carlyle 8.8, Pukenui 9.7, Ebbs 9.6, Sweet Alice 9.6, Gladsmuir 9.5, Powerful 9.5, Kaitangata 9.5, Cymri 9.3, Heathen 9.3, Keep Step 9.0, Urania 9.0, Armagh 9.0, Hokomal 9.0.

EMPIRE HANDICAP, one mile and a-quarter.—Lochbuhie 8.8, Sedition 8.7, Advocate 7.12, Miss Winnie 7.11, Scotty 7.10, Waihuka 7.9, Bully 7.8, Carmania 7.6, Wauchope 7.4, Dardanus 7.2, Necktie 6.10, Escamillo 6.8, Newtown 6.8, Rimlock 6.7, Lord Rosebery 6.7, Leafie 6.7.

ROYAL HANDICAP, five furlongs and a-half.—Dogger Bank 8.12, Foremost 8.8, Hohungatahi 8.5, Devonport 8.2, Tarina 7.10, Sir Artegaal 7.7, Tanelaha 7.5, John 7.1, St. Maria 6.10, Coromandel 6.10, Positive 6.7.

HAWAIIKI HURDLE RACE, two miles.—Ben Jonson 12.3, Sol 10.6, Reservoir 10.5, Le Beau 10.5, Cuiagno 10.3, Poplar 10.0, Te Arai 10.0, Irish 9.11, Luscombe 9.10, Creusot 9.6, Bully 9.5, Te Kaimi 9.4.

NGATARINGA HANDICAP, five furlongs and a-half.—Waiotahi 8.7, Zinnia 8.5, Jill 7.12, Norma 7.10, Aimwell 7.7, Valentine 7.7, Starboard 7.4, Don Quex 7.0, Waikuku 7.0, Silent 7.0, Censure 6.13, Madam Sault 6.13, Matarepe 6.13, Leafie 6.12, Castle Blaney 6.12, Komata 6.12, Olive Rose 6.10, Crescent 6.10.

PONY HANDICAP, five furlongs and a-half.—Mighty Atom 9.2, Glenora 9.0, Octoborn 8.9, Mistine 8.6, Quadroon 8.2, Nora Sault 7.12, Cyrona 7.10, Maika 7.8, Tupaea 7.0, Etonia 7.0.

WANGANUI JOCKEY CLUB'S WINTER MEETING.

On Saturday the Wanganui Jockey Club will inaugurate their Winter Meeting, and a great deal of interest will be taken in the racing, as it is generally looked upon to throw some light upon the Great Northern double. The principal events to be decided are the Wanganui Steeplechase on Saturday, and also the Century Hurdles. Kiatere, 12.6, heads the list, and as the son of Castor is stated to be well off in the matter of condition, he can be relied upon to run a good horse. Eurus, the hero of the C.J.C. Grand National Steeplechase, has to carry 11.3, and he cannot be said to be overburdened; nor can Nogi, who has proved that he can negotiate country. Moccasin has a Great Northern to his credit, and with 9.13 the black horse will keep the best of them moving. I hear good accounts of Whimper, and if all is correct he should be taking a prominent part in the decision, as he has only 11b above the minimum, 9.8. Pawa, 9.12, hails from the stable that shelters Exmoor, All Red and Co., but this horse has not been seen under silk for some time. There is plenty of room for a surprise amongst the light-weight division, which includes Oryx, Jack Pot, Aroha, Clarabelle, Playmate and Northern Star, and tak-

ing everything into consideration a good race should result.

The Century Hurdles is run over two miles and a distance, and as several of those competing claim an engagement in the Great Northern Hurdles the result will be awaited with interest. Master Douglas appears at the head of the acceptances with 11.8, and as this undoubtedly good horse is in form he will command a large following, and should go out favourite. He won both hurdle races at Hawke's Bay without being extended. Maidi follows with 11b. less, and the roan mare has a very attractive record over the sticks. Exmoor is undoubtedly a fast horse, and being a good jumper would, if in his best form, take some beating. However, it is said that Exmoor can improve a good deal in the matter of condition. As the much-boomed pair, North Head and Audax, have been withdrawn, and the Hon. J. D. Ormond has decided to let Kairoma represent the Karamu stable, this will perhaps go a long way with those looking for the winner. However, it may safely be said that Kairoma will have to put his best foot forward to beat some of those engaged. Waipu, 10.8, has been backed for a good deal of money to win the Great Northern Hurdles, and in a true run race would have a good chance. A horse who is entitled to respect is Rangiaetae, 10.0, as this horse is a most consistent performer, and may be relied upon to run a good race. There are several winners over the battens amongst the lightweights, and, taken all round, the contest looks decidedly open. The following are the acceptances for the first day's racing:—

BOROUGH HANDICAP, six furlongs.—Ballarat 8.7, Mon Ami 8.5, Walkaraka 8.3, Irish Rifle 8.0, Kareroa 7.13, Gipsy Belle 7.12, Hermia 7.4, St. Bill 7.3, Toa Tui 7.3, Cyrene 7.2, Nicotine 7.1.

WANGANUI STEEPLCHASE, about three miles.—Kiatere 12.6, Eurus 11.3, Tilson 10.2, Nogi 10.0, Jack Pot 10.0, Moccasin 9.13, Aroha 9.12, Oryx 9.12, Pawa 9.12, Clarabelle 9.10, Playmate 9.10, Ballance 9.9, Whimper 9.8, Northern Star 9.7.

ELECTRIC HACK HANDICAP, five furlongs.—Nyland 9.4, Overtime 9.3, Muga Bill 9.1, Strategist 8.9, Clemency 8.6, Purakau 8.4, Guiding Star 8.4, Toanga 8.3, Brillancy 8.1, Sedgemoor 8.0, Redwing 7.9, Cauldron 7.8, Singer 7.5, Flying Wind 7.5, Waikato 7.5, Captain Bell 7.0, Sea Wind 7.0, Slippery 7.0, Juven Jinnie 7.0, Rifleshot 7.0.

KAITOKE HACK HURDLE RACE, one mile and three-quarters.—Stayboy 11.5, Rangiaetae 11.1, Claremont 10.12, Auratus 10.7, Taupo 9.10, Moose 9.7, Waicue 9.6, Indian Mutiny 9.5, Moscow 9.2, Feu-de-Toie 9.0, Tokoroa 9.0, Lothair 9.0.

CENTURY HURDLE HANDICAP, about two miles and a distance.—Master Douglas 11.8, Maidi 11.7, Exmoor 11.5, Kairoma 11.1, Waipu 10.8, Aorangi 10.5, Xavier 10.3, Snip 10.2, Rangiaetae 10.0, Compass 9.12, Whatakura 9.10, Prospector 9.3, Belario 9.2, Chase Mab 9.0.

CONNOLLY HANDICAP, one mile and a-quarter.—Manhapoto 8.6, Woodhey 8.1, Roosevelt 8.0, Mahuta 7.9, Waitapu 7.8, Daisy Paul 7.4, Gwendolina 7.0, Astraea 6.11, Lady Menselkoff 6.10, Wee Trinket 6.10, First Mate 6.8, Lamsdorff 6.7.

PURUA HACK HANDICAP, one mile.—Mendip 9.1, Research 9.1, Strategist 8.6, Mallet 8.3, North-east 8.2, Anemone 8.0, Paione 7.6, Shannon Lass 7.6, Marathon 7.2, Vinco 7.2, Marshal 7.1, Quick March 7.0, The River 7.0, Montpellier 7.0, Adopted 7.0.

AUCKLAND RACING CLUB'S WINTER MEETING.

ACCEPTANCES FOR THE GREAT NORTHERN DOUBLE.

The acceptances for the Great Northern Hurdle Race and Great Northern Steeplechase, to be decided on June 3 and 5 respectively, fell due on Friday, and with 23 horses still remaining in the hurdle race, and 19 in the cross-country event, the response from owners must be considered highly satisfactory. In both races the select of New Zealand's jumpers are engaged, and each is looked upon to provide a stirring contest. The Southern contingent looks like being particularly strong this year, and unless some of the local beginners turn out to be a little out of the ordinary the chances are that most of the prize-money attached to the obstacle races will leave Auckland. The double bears a very open appearance, but perhaps the Takapuna and Wanganui Meetings will help those who are endeavouring to pick the two "Northern." The nominations for the various other