

events which go to make up the three days' racing must be considered highly satisfactory, and everything points to the meeting being a great success.

THE GREAT NORTHERN HURDLE
RACE of 50sovs; second horse to receive 100sovs and third horse 50sovs out of the stake. Over 10 flights of hurdles. Winner of any hurdle race or hurdle races after declaration of weights of the value of 100sovs to carry 5lb. of 200sovs 7lb. and of 300sovs 10lb penalty. Two miles and a-half.

(Run June 3.)

	st. lb.		st. lb.
Paritutu	11 6	Jack Pot	10 2
Mas. Douglas	11 6	Irish	10 0
Maidi	11 5	Snip	10 0
Exmoor	11 3	Oryx	9 13
Kairoma	10 18	Newtown	9 11
Waipu	10 7	Reservoir	9 10
Audax	10 6	Creusot	9 4
Auragno	10 5	Bully	9 3
Kremlin	10 5	Poplar	9 3
Swagsman	10 4	Maharanui	9 2
Sol	10 4	Belario	9 1
North Head	10 4		

THE GREAT NORTHERN STEEPLECHASE
of 850sovs; second horse to receive 150sovs and third horse 75sovs out of the stake. Winner of any steeplechase or steeplechases after declaration of weights of the value of 100sovs to carry 5lb. of 200sovs 7lb. and of 300sovs 10lb penalty. About three miles and a-half.

(Run June 5.)

	st. lb.		st. lb.
Klatere	12 5	Jack Pot	9 13
Sol	12 2	Kremlin	9 13
Audax	10 18	Aroha	9 11
Maidi	10 5	Oryx	9 11
Irish	10 4	Pawa	9 11
Capitol	10 4	Playmate	9 9
Le Beau	10 3	Te Ara	9 8
Creusot	10 3	Mawhiti	9 7
Cuiragno	10 3	Whimper	9 7
Waipu	10 2		

AUCKLAND METROPOLITAN COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Metropolitan Committee was held on Monday evening, the Hon. E. Mitchelson presiding. The hearing of the fresh evidence produced before the conference in the Cunningham case, and referred back to the Metropolitan Committee, was fixed for Tuesday evening next. The following licenses were granted:—Jockeys: James Duffin, Percy Major, and Percy Perrin. Gentleman riders: Messrs. William Hellaby and Alexander Reid. The following dates were approved for the season 1909-10:—Auckland Racing Club: Spring, November 6, 9, 13; summer, December 27 and 30 and January 1 and 3; autumn, March 26, 28, and 29; winter, June 3, 4, and 8. Takapuna Jockey Club: Spring, November 27 and December 1; summer, January 29 and February 2 and 5; winter, May 21 and 24. Avondale Jockey Club: Spring, September 18, 22, and 25; autumn, April 9 and 13. South Auckland Racing Club: February 25 and 26. Whangarei Racing Club: January 7 and 8. Waihi Jockey Club: March 5. Rotorua Jockey Club: February 16 and 17. Thames Jockey Club: December 27 and 28 and March 12; Northern Wairoa Racing Club, December 27; Te Aroha Jockey Club, March 7 and 8; Ohinemuri Jockey Club, March 17 and 19. The applications of the Helensville and Te Kuiti Racing Clubs for registration were recommended for approval by the conference.

TAURIKI CASE DECIDED.

The committee of the Takapuna Jockey Club have disposed of the long standing Tauriki case. The following finding was posted on Saturday:—The committee of the Takapuna J.C. having taken voluminous evidence and carefully and fully investigated the question raised by Mr. A. McMillan, owner of Cyreniac, with respect to the mare Tauriki, which was declared to be the winner of the Maiden Plate, Pupuke and Welter Handicaps at the club's winter meeting of 1908, unanimously find as follows:—That J. Grant, in whose name Tauriki was raced, is guilty of a corrupt practice by wilfully and corruptly supplying false information at this inquiry, and the committee disqualify him during the pleasure of the club. That S. Darragh is guilty of a corrupt practice by wilfully and corruptly supplying false information at this inquiry, and the committee disqualify him during the pleasure of the club. The committee award the stakes won by Tauriki, viz., the Maiden Plate and Pupuke Handicap, to the owner of the second horse Cyreniac and the stakes won by Tauriki, viz., the Welter Handicap, to the owner of the second horse, Tui Cakobau. The committee has been delayed in arriving at a decision owing chiefly to the persistent failure of Mr. S. Darragh and Mr. J. Grant and their witnesses to appear and give evidence when notified to do so.

Mr. T. S. Clibborn has been secretary to the Australian Jockey Club for the substantial period of 36 years.

TURF TOPICS.

Swagsman, who figures in the Great Northern Hurdles, is reported to be amiss.

Although Tui Cakobau has been allowed to drop out of the Great Northern Hurdles, the big bay is jumping in rare style over the battens in his training, and one morning during the week defeated such good performers as Irish and Le Beau over a mile and a-half.

Irish, who has often been written off as a past light, once again looks like playing a prominent part in some of the jumping events this season. The Eton gelding is hitting out in great style in his work at Ellerslie, and those who number him amongst the "has beens" may get a set-back. Irish can jump, and has pace, besides being a genuine stayer. Irish has one Great Northern Hurdle Race down against his name, and he also filled the role of runner-up to Merriwal.

"Glencoe," in the "Dominion," says that J. Prosser recently stated that Ghoorka held the record for a mile on the beach at Porirua. When it is remembered that Prosser has trained Tortulla, Advance, Gold Crest, Achilles, Boreas, and All Red, the son of Lochiel must have been a great horse, and it is certain we never saw the best of him.

W. Young will ride Maidi in the Century Hurdles at Wanganui, and will also ride her in the Great Northern Steeplechase.

Mr. E. J. Watt has sold Aborigine to Mr. Baldock, of India, for, it is stated, 1200 guineas. Aborigine arrived in Auckland on Tuesday, en route to India.

M. McGrath is to leave for Sydney to-morrow with Moloch and Osiris. Moloch will probably be put to hurdle racing, and should he take to the jumping business the Wellington Cup winner will keep them all moving when the colours are up.

Three horses fell at the Taroom (Brisbane) Races on Thursday. A jockey named Webster was killed, and two others were severely injured.

The gold chain and locket stolen from the jockeys' dressing-room at the recent Patea Race Meeting, held at Hawera, have been traced through the instrumentality of the police, and have been found in the possession of a person at Christchurch, who has been arrested.

In response to an interviewer in Adelaide recently, Walter Hickenbotham, the trainer of Trafalgar, stated that Newhaven was the fastest horse he ever had through his hands up to a mile and a-quarter, and even went so far as to say that he was faster and better than Carbine up to a mile and a-half, but beyond that admitted that Carbine was a class unto himself. Hickenbotham considers that Newhaven, when he won the Melbourne Cup, was the fittest horse that had ever left his stable for the post. In answer to the query as to what, in his opinion, was the fastest horse he had ever seen, the veteran replied, "Mountain King, undoubtedly. For a big horse he gathered his pace in a remarkable manner, and I have seen him travel half a mile and five furlongs quicker than any other thoroughbred."

There is a probability of the Wellington Pony and Galloway Club extending their holiday fixture on June 3rd over two days, concluding on the Saturday. A winter retirement will follow, extending over some six weeks, during which attention will be paid to putting the track in better order and effecting other improvements. About £200 will be expended.

That first-class rider, H. Cairns, will have the mount on Mocassin in the Wanganui Steeplechase. Cairns will also ride Aorang and Moscow in their engagements.

A Victorian sportsman has been inquiring as to the price of California's half-brother, Prospector, and there is a possibility that the Gold Reef gelding and his stable companion Defeat will both find their way to Australia.

The stallion Simmer (by St. Simon) died in Sydney last week, the cause of death being inflammation.

In an article in the "Taranaki Budget" a writer says: As for the latest Gaming Act, there is only one thing that a self-respecting Parliament can do with it—repeal it at the earliest possible moment."

At the Moonee Valley, Melbourne. Meeting on Saturday, the Commonwealth Steeplechase resulted: Boomarang 1, Kauma 2, Falcon 3.

Necktie is galloping attractively just now, and as the daughter of Menschikoff has only 6.10 in the Empire Handicap, she should run well. Of course Necktie is very small, but Carmania is only a pony, and she led from start to finish in the Avondale Handicap.

Valentine, who figures in the Maiden Handicap at Takapuna with 7.7, ran third in the Manaia Handicap at Egmont on the second day. Valentine led for a good portion of the journey.

Fancy Lochbuie, Sedition, Advocate and Miss Winnie giving Scotty weight over a mile and a-quarter. It is evidently thought the St. Leger gelding has lost his pace. It would be a poor look-out for the others should he still retain it.

Writes "Javelin" in the Melbourne "Leader":—Dog racing, one of the most popular sports amongst the North of England pitmen, and which appears to be catching on here with the owners of whip-pets and terriers, came under consideration in the smoking carriage one Saturday night. The sport is so new to most Australians that few of them know anything about it. "Wot gits over me," remarked one sport, "is that with no hares or rabbits to chase 'em, 'ow they git 'em to run straight, an' nobody on top ridin' or guidin' 'em!" The speaker enjoys the questionable reputation of being able to ride a dead 'un as cleverly as most of them, therefore there was a general and significant laugh when the inevitable little man with the big pipe observed, "Praps it's not havin' ennybody on top as makes 'em run so straight!"

Auratus was far from ready when he ran in the Tongahoe Hurdles at Farnham, and he quickly dropped to the rear.

Nicotine, who figures in the Borough Handicap at Wanganui with 7.1, it will be remembered defeated Flit-away and Co. at Palmerston North, traversing the distance in 1.15.

Speaking of the Marlborough Racing Club's meeting, a Marlborough exchange is responsible for the following:—"One regrettable incident occurred which had nothing to do with the management. The colours of the jockeys were so indistinguishable that the judge was able to sort out the placed division. In the President's Handicap Merrie Rose, who finished fourth, was placed first, and when the numbers were hoisted naturally the public became excited and gathered round the judge's box in large numbers. As soon as the horses paraded past the judge's box the judge was easily convinced that an error had been made, and it was at once rectified. It is only fair to say that the colours of Merrie Rose and Gaelic (the winner) were identical, and as both were bespattered with mud it was somewhat of a task to distinguish them in such a close finish."

Prior to North Head starting for the Hack Hurdle Handicap at Hastings, an endeavour was made to buy the Birkenhead—Norsemaid gelding, but the would-be purchaser was informed that the animal was not for sale.

Word received in Wellington states that the pony Maid of All Work, which was shipped to Sydney a couple of weeks ago, has already won a race on the other side.

Multiform's list for 1909 is full, but the Whittingham studmaster, Mr. W. Brown, is booking a few subscriptions for 1910 at 50 guineas.

Sight, by Carbine, won a selling steeplechase at Hawthorn Hill, England, in March. At the same meeting Finchale, by Aurum, and Prince Abercorn, by Abercorn, were also winners. Chute, a four-year-old by Carbine, was successful in the Kesteven Plate at the Lincoln meeting.

It is said that neither The Lark nor Bunyan will race again.

J. McGregor, who last season received injuries when riding Lull in a hurdle race at Feilding, which it was feared would render him a cripple for life, has apparently made a remarkable recovery, and his medical adviser has intimated he is now quite sound enough to resume his former calling. McGregor is at present riding Maidi over the schooling hurdles at Feilding, and it is rumoured that if he can get his license he will have the mount on the roan mare in her Auckland engagements, including the Great Northern Steeplechase.

Paritutu has been supported to win a fair amount of money in doubles with the fancied candidates in the Great Northern Steeplechase.

It is understood that the well-known rider Geo. Price has been appointed private trainer to "Mr. Highden," in succession to A. J. Shearsby, who intends to set up as a public trainer again. Price, it is understood, takes over the horses to-morrow. "Mr. Highden" has, it is further stated, purchased training stables and thirteen acres of land at Awapuni, and the horses will be trained there.

Mendip, second to Lady Lucy, has now ran three consecutive seconds.

Sedgemoor's win in the Tawhiti Scurry would be very popular in Wanganui, as he is owned by "Mr. H. Jeffery," the nom-de-plume of Mr. J. H. Nixon, treasurer of the Wanganui Jockey Club.

The gelding Mulga Bill paid a big price at Egmont, considering the form he showed at Wanganui in March.

Lady Lucy, who scored in the Hawera Cup, is a hand-reared foal. Her connections are stated to have been quite prepared for her success, and came in for a fair win.

Glenfield changed hands during the Ashburton Racing Club's Meeting at 175 guineas, with further contingency. The purchaser was Mr. Skinner, owner of British Peer.

The other day Mr. Will Crooks, M.P., had an amusing experience with a newsboy at Charing Cross. Waiting for an omnibus, Mr. Crooks was approached by a boy, shouting, "Ere y'are, guv'nor, 'ere's the 2.30 winner." "No thanks," said the member for Woolwich. "Buy a paper," the boy persisted, "an' I'll give y' a tip for ter-morrer's selling plate." "No, thanks," again replied Mr. Crooks. "I don't bet." Upon hearing this statement the lively urchin ran across to his mate. "Hi, Jim," he cried, "see that ole bloke over there? He don't want no bloomin' winner. Says 'e don't bet. 'E must be some blessed heathen."

At the monthly committee meeting of the Canterbury Jockey Club, Sir Geo. Clifford and Mr. F. H. Pyne were appointed to represent the club at the next sitting of the Racing Conference. It was decided to move the following new rule at the Racing Conference:—"That when any licensed trainer or jockey be called before the stewards or committee of any club and punished, reprimanded, or warned, a report of the proceedings shall be sent to the Metropolitan Committee, who shall forward it to the secretary of the Racing Conference, such report to be entered in a book kept for the purpose, to be open for inspection by officials of any club." It was resolved that in future no rider in steeplechases or hurdle races shall be weighed out unless wearing a patent skull cap. It was decided to pay second dividends in future when six or more horses started in a race.

It is often urged that a horse was in need of a gallop to get him right. This is after a race. When horses come out to run they are supposed to be (or ought to be) fit, but I am inclined to think that is a rule which is not carried out in its entirety, says an Australian writer. There is at present too much of the "short of a gallop" going on, and the sooner it is done away with the better it will be for all concerned—owners, trainers, racecourses, and the public. The last get sick of the in and out form, and rather than attend a race meeting in this State invest their money at starting price on some Eastern States race. The owners and trainers would benefit, for they would be able to get a longer price about their horses and a larger number would attend the race meetings. The clubs could then raise the stakes, and again the owners would benefit. Much might be written on the