

that the Wellington Racing Club will add to the stakes of all its important races, and attach similar conditions thereto. It often happens that, at the annual yearling sales, youngsters purchased for trifling sums afterwards win thousands of pounds in stakes, but the breeder, so far from benefiting thereby, has actually made a loss on the keep of the yearling. The resolution adopted by the Wellington Racing Club should, therefore, meet with general approbation from horse breeders in the Dominion.

AVONDALE JOCKEY CLUB.

THE SPRING FIXTURE.

The programme for the Avondale Jockey Club's spring meeting appears in another part of this issue, and a glance shows that there is a deal of improvement when compared with the corresponding meeting last year. The amount of prize money attaching to the 24 events to be decided on the three days, September 18, 22 and 25, totals £2760, or £90 more than in 1908. Most money is, of course, attached to the Avondale Cup, one mile and a-quarter, the amount being 300 sovs; but perhaps the race which carries most interest is the Avondale Stakes of 200sovs, the first two-year-old event of the racing season in Auckland. Taken all round the programme is an attractive one, and there is certain to be a good response from owners on August 20, when nominations close for the Avondale Cup of 300sovs, one mile and a-quarter; First Handicap Steeplechase of 90 sovs, about three miles; Flying Stakes of 100sovs, six furlongs; and Plumpton Handicap (second day) of 200sovs, one mile. Nominations for the minor events, which are as follow, close on Friday, September 3:—Maiden Plate of 80sovs, six furlongs; Henderson Handicap of 90sovs, four furlongs; First Hurdles of 90sovs, two miles; Plunket Handicap of 80sovs, seven furlongs. Second day—Second Hurdles of 90sovs, one mile and three-quarters; President's Handicap of 80 sovs, six furlongs; Nursery Handicap of 100sovs, four furlongs; Kingsland Handicap of 80sovs, six furlongs; Nihotapu Handicap of 80sovs, seven furlongs; Mount Albert Handicap of 100 sovs, five furlongs. Third day—Maiden Hurdles of 80sovs, one mile and three-quarters; New Lynn Handicap of 70sovs, five furlongs; Welter Handicap of 80sovs, six furlongs; Second Handicap Steeplechase of 90sovs, about three miles; Grandstand Handicap of 130sovs, one mile; Electric Handicap of 80sovs, four furlongs; Members' Handicap of 70sovs, seven furlongs; Publicans' Handicap of 100 sovs, six furlongs.

STUD FEES.

In glancing over the list of fees fixed for the service of stallions in Australia one cannot but be struck (says an exchange) with the great contrast between matters ruling there and in England in that respect. In a long list of Australia stallions before me, Positano figures as the only horse whose fee extends to three figures, and the sum fixed in his case only reaches 100 guineas. There is then a drop of 50 guineas, which is the amount opposite Multiform's name; Haut Brion and Fortunatus, at 30 gs. each, being the other horses most prominent on the list. In England the following are the fees charged for the services of the leading stallions:—St. Frusquin, 300 guineas; Spearmint, 250 gs.; Radium, 200 gs.; Melton, 200 gs.; Gallinule, 200 gs.; Ayrshire, 200 gs.; Desmond, 200 gs.; Isinglass, 200 gs.; Zinfandel, 200 gs.; William the Third, 200 gs. A French breeder, it may be remarked, holds what has, I suppose, a right to be regarded as the greatest gold mine in the stallion sense—viz., Flying Fox, the fee attaching to the English horse's name being no less a sum than 600 guineas, which, it is interesting to note, is £532 more than the sum charged for the services of his sire, Orme.

THE CHANCES OF APPRENTICES.

It often occurs to me when noticing the multitude of boys riding work to wonder how many of these are ever fortunate enough to get a chance to make a name as jockeys, writes the "Special Commissioner" of the London "Sportsman." Even to such as are put up as apprentices the path to future success is beset with difficulties, for however well they may have done while entitled to the apprentice allowance, their patrons are only too apt to desert them when that period has passed, and therefore the apprentice allowance is chiefly effective in manufacturing jockeys for abroad.

That is to say, when a boy loses his allowance, and in consequence is no longer given a chance at home, he is forced to go abroad or back into the stables. Thus it is that such promising lads as Childs, H. Aylin, Clemson, T. Dixon, T. L. Miller, W. Bray, F. Lane, C. Halsley, M. Aylin, J. Murray, A. Sharples, H. Blades, A. Cockeram, F. Greening and others have been driven abroad, though they were all at one time or another thought likely to make first-class jockeys. It seems clear that some modification of the apprentice allowance rule is needed, for as it stands it serves only to spoil handicaps, while its ultimate effect is to cruelly disappoint successful apprentices, few of whom manage to bridge over the transition period between this stage and that of a full-fledged jockey.

THE BETTING POSITION IN NEW YORK.

In chatting about the betting position in New York, and the difficulties besetting backers, an American writer says with operations conducted as at present the odds are ridiculous, and, besides, the system in vogue opens up a fruitful field for the welsher. The "regulars" are adopting the English system of "betting on the nod," with a settlement each day, but the occasional visitor to the track finds some difficulty at present in getting his bit on. However, in the city, pool rooms are still flourishing, and here reasonable odds can be obtained, strange to say. And yet the reform element pretended that it was really the betting rooms in New York and throughout the State they were mainly attacking.

VICTORIA AMATEUR TURF CLUB'S MEETING.

NEW ZEALAND HORSES AND THEIR WEIGHTS.

In the weights for the Australian Hurdle Race and Australian Steeplechase, Destinst has been allotted top weight (11st 13lb) in the Australian Hurdle Race, Bribery following with 11st 11lb. Aeolus and Ataahua, have been respectively allotted 11st 3lb, Waipu 9st 9lb, and Phaetonitis 9st. In the Australian Steeplechase Bribery is top weight with 13st 7lb. Other weights are: Destinst 13st 11lb, Ataahua 12st 5lb, Kiatere and Pilot 11st 10lb each, Waipu 10st 11lb, Phaetonitis 10st 5lb, Up-to-Date 9st 5lb.

TURF TOPICS.

J. Deerey, who piloted Cymri and Te Arai to victory at the Great Northern Meeting, will have the mount on Scotty in his Southern engagements.

Cymri is said to have over-reached himself last week, but it is not considered serious, although the son of Cyrenian had to forfeit his Wellington engagements.

B. Deeley, by his two successes at Gisborne, has raised his total number of wins to 63.

Irish may be ridden in his Wellington engagements by the well-known Southern jockey, C. Cochrane.

In an advertisement in this issue Mr. Walter Davies intimates that he will seek re-election as a member of the Auckland Racing Club Committee at the annual meeting, which takes place on Monday, August 2.

Lionheart is said to be coming on rapidly in his training at Awapuni, and may be seen out under silk shortly.

Consolation, who filled the role of runner up to Aborigine in the Thompson Handicap at Wellington, is to be retired from the track, and will be mated with Elevation.

Evidently another attempt is to be made to get a race out of Mahutonga, as an exchange has it that the chestnut son of Quilt is to be sent to Melbourne from Sydney, to be given another chance of standing a preparation.

Certificates of identification in the case of Messrs. J. B. McArthur and C. B. Kellow's New Zealand bred gelding Haerema, 1902, by Freedom from Leogwin, and Mr. W. Brennan's English-bred horse Linacre, 1904, by Wolf's Crag—Lismaine, have been accepted as satisfactory by the V.R.C.

Sea God is the name conferred on the yearling brother to Archilles.

By his success in the steeplechase at Gisborne, Te Arai will have to put up a 7lb. penalty in the C.J.C. Grand National Steeplechase, and his weight is now 10.6.

Messrs. McKenzie (chairman) and F. Yonge (secretary) will represent the Otahuhu Trotting Club at the approaching Conference in Wellington.

One of the smartest rising two-year-olds at Randwick is a colt by Machine Gun from Zebra, by Grandy from Missie, by Welcome Jack, one of the crack sons of Traducer. It will be interesting to note how the blend of the two crack New Zealanders will figure during the coming season.

A Melbourne cable states that the hurdler Ataahua is now out of danger, but that it will be many months before he is able to race.

Carrying top weight (9 st.), the four-year-old son of St. Frusquin, Santo Strato, owned by Mr. Leopold De Rothschild, won the Chester Cup, over a distance of 2 miles, in 3min. 58 4-5 sec., the second fastest time recorded in the race during the whole of its history. The weight, too, is the heaviest since that of Knight of the Garter's in the "sixties." When Santo Strato took up the running 300 yards from home the cheering was loud and long-sustained, the weighted horse's win being exceedingly popular. He ran in blinkers, and while he was walking about in the paddock prior to the race his head was encumbered by a heavy leather muzzle. Madden, his jockey, said of him:—"I think he is game, but he is a funny horse. I have never seen him with a muzzle on before, and was surprised to see it."

According to reports from Australia, in the mishap to Ataahua the Merdialloc stable had extremely bad luck when the New Zealander injured himself recently. The Melbourne Age reports a gallop which Ataahua accomplished a few days before his accident as follows:—Ataahua, who is trained at Merdialloc, recently performed a sensational gallop over hurdles. Ridden by F. Burn, he ran two miles and jumped nine hurdles in 3min. 48 1/2 sec., with his shoes on. Starshoot attempted to accompany him during the last half of the journey, but was beaten right off. Taking into account the heavy state of the going, the gallop was an extraordinarily good one, meritorious enough to win a two-mile race on the flat among racehorses, let alone hurdlers."

By winning the V.R.C. Grand National Steeplechase on Saturday, under the steadier of 12.11, in easy fashion, the Malvolio gelding Bribery must surely be entitled to a place amongst the best steeplechasers Australia has produced, and a pleasing incident in connection with his victory is that he is owned and trained by a New Zealander, D. J. Price. No one will begrudge him his success after the stroke of bad luck he experienced prior to the meeting, when Ataahua, the ruling favourite for the V.R.C. Grand National Hurdles, met with an accident while schooling, and received serious injury. Bribery has now won both the V.R.C. Grand National Steeplechase and Hurdles, also the Caulfield Grand National Steeplechase.

Says "Moturoa," a Taranaki scribe:—"That Waihuka can jump smartly and cleanly is plainly evident to those who have been following track doings during the past fortnight. Waihuka, in company with the veteran Paritutu, was responsible for an attractive round of the hurdles on Monday morning, with the pace on, and it only remains to be seen whether the new aspirant for hurdle race honours can stay or not. The idea that his nomination for the Grand National Hurdles was mere flattery has been effectively dispelled." Waihuka, who is a half-brother by San Fran to Waipu, will probably make his first appearance in public over the battens in the Peninsula Hack Hurdles at Trentham on Saturday.

Sublime, who won three races at the Gisborne meeting, is a half-sister to the Wellington Stakes winner, Theodore.

When the last mail left England, F. Wootton had ridden 45 winners, and his victories since that date include a win on Perola in the Oaks. D. Maher, who was second on the list, had only 25 wins to his credit.

Acceptances for the C.J.C. Grand National Hurdles and Steeplechase close to-morrow (Friday), when nominations for all other events to be decided at the fixture will be received.

Maidi has been scratched for all engagements at the Wellington meeting, and Kremlin for his first day's engagements.

Ngapuka was withdrawn from the Winter Cup, to be decided at the C.J.C. Grand National meeting on Monday.

Advices received here from Melbourne state that the New Zealand steeplechaser Kiatere is suffering from a poisoned hind leg, which necessitated his withdrawal from all Flemington engagements. It is considered unlikely that Kiatere will have sufficiently recovered to enable him to race at Caulfield next month.

Bookmakers, English and Australian, complain, with good reason, that betting, even on the Epsom, Derby, and Melbourne Cup, has fallen off greatly of late years, and it seems inclined to run itself to a standstill before long. In Daniel Rourke's Derby £50,000 went into one bookmaker's bag, and another satchel was shut on £40,000, the famous fielder, Davies, having laid the odds on both occasions. Mr. Steel returned to Mr. James Smith £60,000 as the first instalment of the Rosebery commission when he won the Czarewitch, and our own brave old battler, poor Joe Thompson, paid out £80,000 to Mr. Sep. Stephen, under the verandah, who represented Chester's owner, in 1877. It is too much to expect we'll ever see betting like this again in Australia, for I (says "Boondi") doubt if we have the money, and we certainly have not the men. This latter fact may not be worth regretting, however, for "our boys" who hold the "ready" don't seem to also hold the necessary nous to invest it safely.

The Canterbury Jockey Club's committee to-day approved of increases in the stakes for the season amounting to £2440, making a grand total of £30,240. The increases are divided as follow:—Grand National meeting, £710; spring meeting, £1330; autumn meeting, £400.

During the past season the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club collected £3988 in bookmakers' licenses, while the Plumpton Park T.C. augmented its funds from the same source to the extent of £1249.

Seabreeze, a famous mare in her day, died recently after foaling. She carried off the Oaks and St. Leger in 1888, and when she won the rich Lancashire Stakes was followed home by the Derby winner, Ayrshire, and the French horse Le Sancy. Altogether Seabreeze, who was a very beautiful daughter of Isonomy and St. Marguerite, won nearly £30,000 in stakes, but as a brood matron she was more or less of a failure.

It is an extraordinary thing with Newmarket stable lads (says a writer in a London paper) that their favourite form of relaxation if they get off for a day is to go to Yarmouth and ride donkeys, and this they will do as long as their money holds out. The contrast of a thoroughbred on Newmarket Heath and a donkey on the sands at Yarmouth must be great indeed.

Sublime won three races at the Gisborne meeting, and Te Arai, Baldos, and Gladsmuir each won doubles.

Winning jockeys at the Gisborne meeting were: F. Porter four, E. Lowe three, A. Selby two, B. Deeley two, F. Howard, W. Young, and Horne, one each.

Minoru, the Derby winner, is not engaged in the Eclipse Stakes of 10,000sovs, to be run at Sandown Park to-morrow, nor are the other classic winners, Electra and Perola, engaged. The field, however, is likely to include Bayardo, Signorinetta, and Your Majesty.

A win in the Wellington Winter Hurdles and Steeplechase carries a 14lb. penalty for the big events at Riccarton.

One of the bookmakers registered to do business on the Flat at Caulfield recently made use of offensive language to a backer, for which he was fined £10 by the committee.

Another New Zealander may shortly find his way to Australia, as negotiations are being made for the purchase of Playmate.