

OUR GRAND NATIONAL COUPON.

THE £20 WON.

FOUR LUCKY COMPETITORS.

Four persons succeeded in predicting the success of Cavalier in the Grand National Hurdles, Voltigeur II. in the Great Northern Steeplechase, and St. Peter in the Second Winter Welter. Their names and addresses are as follows:—

JOSEPH WATKIN,

Exmouth-street,
Auckland.

R. H. ABBOTT,

C/o. Abbott, Oram & Co.
Wellesley-street,
Auckland.

HARRY EMETT,

Paeroa.

W. P. SHEARMAN,

Ellerslie.

Should there be no demand for a scrutiny these competitors will each receive a fourth share of the £20. All the winners have to do is to make written application for their respective prizes.

Inter-Provincial.

[OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

CANTERBURY.

NEW ZEALAND CUP—EARLY BETTING.

CHRISTCHURCH, June 9.

Nominations for the New Zealand Cup, are to say the least, very disappointing. It is true that quality is well represented, and if such animals as Advance, Explosion, Seahorse, Malatus, Record Reign, and Tortulla can be got to the post, the race should prove quite as interesting as its precedents. There can be no gainsaying the fact, however, that the field is comparatively weak, and I shall not be surprised to see only half the present number left in after the first acceptance comes due in August. It is difficult to account for the great falling off in the number of entries for the principal race of the year, but of this I am certain that the growing popularity of the Auckland Racing Club's November Meeting, held at the same time as the New Zealand Cup, is interfering with the C.J.C. The Auckland Club gives rich stakes, and it pays owners to take their animals to the Northern city, rather than journey to Riccarton. The following figures will show that the nominations received this year are the smallest that have been received: for the race 1889, 54; 1890, 60; 1891, 76; 1892, 71; 1893, 71; 1894, 70; 1895, 54; 1896, 59; 1898, 49; 1899, 60; 1900, 46. It will be noticed that five of the Cup candidates are also entered for the Melbourne Cup, they are Advance, Tortulla, Malatus, Military and Seahorse. Sixteen Canterbury horses have been nominated for the Cup. Mr Stead heads the list with four, Mr Dan O'Brien comes next with three, Sir G. Clifford has two, Mr Murray Hobbs sole representative is the uncertain Dundas. Of Mr Stead's cast-offs, Conqueror and Romanoff are among the Cup candidates. The former has come to light lately in races up to one mile, but recent performances of the last Welcome Stakes winner, would not lead one to think he was a likely Cup Winner. I expected to see Castashore entered for the Cup. The son of Castor is now at Riccarton doing easy work in view of winter engagements.

Cameo has been in winning form lately, and carried off two races at the North Canterbury Meeting. The son of Medallion is worth watching in welter races. He can carry weight all right.

Another commission was worked in Christchurch in favour of Cavalier—Dummy for the Grand National Hurdles and Great Northern Steeplechase.

Upon enquiries made from one of the leading bookmakers to-day, I learned that Malatus, Military, Mataroa, Hengist and Fulmen had all been backed for some hundreds for the New Zealand Cup before nominations were read.

June 12th.

Cavalier and Voltigeur II were the ruling favourites in Christchurch on the days the Northern Steeplechase and Grand National Hurdles were run, but very few backers were lucky enough to back the pair in doubles.

Social Pest's supporters were disappointed with his display in the National Hurdles. Personally, I did not expect to see the son of Ahua do better than get close up to the placed horses. It must be remembered that Social Pest has not been seen out for some months, and to carry top weight in the big race and beat a good field, was, I think, asking him to do too much. Providing he gets over his accident, I think you will find our crack hurdler able to pace it with the best of them when the Grand National comes round.

I fully expected Venture to do a lot better. This horse has done some excellent work previous to leaving for the North, being a first-class stayer and jumper. Christchurch backers plunged heavily on him in the Marsden Steeplechase.

Pensioner has the minimum weight in both the

Hawke's Bay Steeplechase and Hurdles. He is a long way from being in the first flight of jumping horses.

Social Pest, on his running at Auckland, has been given his full share of weight in the Hawke's Bay Hurdles. Handicappers are apt at times to treat good horses too severely.

There has been practically no betting on the New Zealand Cup since the nominations appeared. Fourteen to one is the best price on offer about Advance, Explosion, Malatus, Military, Seahorse and Sant' Ilario, while Miss Delaval, Fulmen, Tortulla, Record Reign and Renown are quoted at sixteen to one. These prices seem ridiculously low at this distance from the day of the race. I should very much like to know what Military and Sant' Ilario have done to warrant them being quoted at the same price in betting as animals who have beaten them again and again.

The monthly meeting of the committee of the Canterbury Jockey Club was held on Tuesday. Sir George Clifford was elected Chairman for the ensuing year, and the delegate to represent the Club at the Racing Conference.

H. Telford, whose license was withdrawn when he became owner of the horse Aide-de-Camp, wrote asking that he should be re-instated, as he had sold his interest in the horse. It was decided to grant the request. The disqualification of C. Stratford at the request of the Christchurch Racing Club was removed. The Secretary of the North Canterbury Jockey Club reported W. Mann, trainer, for using insulting language. The Committee decided to take the matter into consideration when the next licensing meeting was held. Transfer of ownership of Diplomat by Stepniak—Adulation from Mr R. Bennett to Mr G. G. Stead was sanctioned.

At the monthly meeting of the New Zealand Trotting Association there was a full attendance of delegates. The disqualification of the horse Comet by the Otahuhu Trotting Club, also disqualifications of F. Murfit, F. J. Smith, E. G. Sandall and A. Collins by the same Club, were endorsed. The Chairman mentioned that the Secretary had written asking for Motu's brands, a reply being received to the effect that owing to legal difficulties it would be inadvisable to disclose the brands. Two appeals from decisions of Tahuna Park Trotting Club were held over pending a perusal of new evidence by the stewards. After taking evidence in the case of the disqualification of Bellman and his driver by the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club, the matter was held over for further consideration. The action of the Wellington Trotting Club in disqualifying G. W. Smart's horse Miss Hanlon for five years and Campbell for two years was endorsed. An application was received from the Mangere and Suburban Club for a permit to hold a meeting on July 4. It was decided to reply that the Association could not see its way to grant any fresh permits for the present racing year, and to suggest to the Club that it should apply for affiliation next season. The programme of the Canterbury Trotting Club for meetings to be held on August 15 and 17 was submitted for approval, the application being held over.

The annual meeting of the Canterbury Trotting Club was held last night, and was largely attended. The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, said that for the first time in the history of the Club the past season's operations had resulted in a slight loss. Nevertheless, taking into consideration the fact that one of their usual permits had not been granted, and a large amount of money donated to the War Fund, he thought the Club could congratulate itself on the result. The Committee had endeavoured to introduce class trotting, and it was gratifying to find that owners had liberally responded. The Committee, on behalf of the Club, had secured a seven years' lease of the Show Ground from the Agricultural and Pastoral Association, and also extended the track about five furlongs. The balance sheet showed that the receipts, including the balance brought forward of £1084 18s 3d, amounted to £5182 3s 11d. Whilst the expenditure totalled £4554 0s 11d, showing a loss of £406 for the year. The credit balance of £628 3s with assets showed a balance of £1728 1s over liabilities. After a somewhat heated discussion the report and balance sheet were adopted, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, T. Marr (re-elected); Treasurer, J. S. Slade (re-elected); Committee, Messrs Hayward, Berry, Rallinshaw, Mace, Funderland, Derrett, Morrison, Hellyer, Tompkins, Walker, and Thorne; Steward's Committee, Messrs Archer Thompson, Taylor, Vale, and Pannell. A deputation consisting of Messrs Marr, Slade, Rallinshaw, and Hayward, were appointed to wait upon the New Zealand Trotting Association to ascertain why the programme submitted for the Club's August Meeting had not been approved. A motion affirming the advisableness of the Club amalgamating with the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club was rejected by 25 to 6.

Two members of F. Claridge's team, Rex II. and Huntington, have been put into work in view of engagements at National time. Rex looks well, and got over the jumps safely the other evening.

Old Liberator is being given steady work. He appears to be suffering from stiffness, but Good-year expects to get a race out of him this winter.

Veronica, by Vanguard, is showing improved form over hurdles.

Mr H. G. Pitt, the well-known huntsman, leaves for South Africa shortly in charge of remounts for the New Zealand contingents. Mr Pitt has sold his old hunter and steeplechaser

Dundonald to Mr Rutherford, jun. Dundonald looks as well as ever, and will, no doubt, be given an opportunity to win races for his new owner at the National Meeting.

W. Holmes, the light-weight jockey, has severed his connection with the Yaldhurst racing establishment, and is now out of employment.

Gillie is a regular attendant on the tracks, but so far he has not done any fast work.

Two North Islanders, Spider and Ejector, arrived at headquarters on Thursday last. The former will be raced in welter handicaps.

Canterbury will be very short of good jumpers this season, and unless the North Island owners give liberal support the Canterbury Jockey Club's Grand National Meeting this year will be a very tame affair, that is so far as jumping events are concerned.

WELLINGTON.

GENERAL RACING TALK.

WELLINGTON, June 9th.

A reference to the dates fixed by the Wellington Racing Club for its Steeplechase Meeting and next season's gathering, shows that the concluding day's racing is fixed for Saturdays instead of Fridays. Larger attendances are anticipated, and more money is likely to be circulated at the end of the week than on either Wednesdays (half-holiday) or Fridays. Of course the new arrangement will not suit those owners who will thus be compelled to stay over Sundays, but their convenience cannot be considered in everything. The Wellington steeplechase, run next month, is to be decided on the Saturday, and it should prove a great draw card.

The Marton Jockey Club has fixed upon Dec. 5th and 6th as dates of its next meeting. The events will be similar to those got off at the last gathering but the prize money will be increased by £15 on the first day and £18 on the second day. The York Farm Handicap will this year be worth £500, the penalty in this event and for the winner of the Electric will be five instead of seven pounds as hitherto. Mr S. Gibson, of the White Hart Hotel, is offering a handsome cup for the winner of the Hunt Club Cup, to be won outright, not in successive or alternative years as is usual in such cases. Mr Gibson has been thanked for his offer.

The well known jockey, T. Watson, has severed his connection with Prosser's stable.

Judging from the attitude taken up by some members of the Masterton R.C., it is uncertain if the proposed change to a new course will be made. The present location is far from being an ideal one, but the question is, can a better be obtained, one that will be as handy and as convenient? The stewards of the club again discussed the matter last week when strong opposition was offered. The chairman, Mr A. W. Cave, said he could not see what they would gain by shifting, and Mr Macara shared his opinion. If they got proper railway accommodation he said they could not improve on the present site. Mr Palmer said the proposed site was unsuitable in more ways than one, Mr Vallance agreed. On the other hand, Mr Wardell thought the change would undoubtedly popularise the Club, and if they were ever going to do anything in the way of shifting, they had better do it now, as land would be dearer later on and they might not then get so well suited. Mr O'Connell said there would be no difficulty in getting over a hundred new members if they raced on a new course. Mr Pownall contended that the whole of the stewards were really agreed about the unsuitability of the present course, but were afraid to launch out. The course was a most inconvenient one for all who attended. There would be no greater difficulty in reaching the new property at Manaia, than in getting to Opaki. After further discussion it was decided to obtain the opinion of a surveyor as to the suitability of the Manaia ground, his report to be presented to a special general meeting of the members of the Club to be held on June 27th.

Art Jewel, by Artillery—Crown Jewel, has had a lengthy spell, and is now being worked again by Ike James, who has also taken Inkerman in hand.

H. Telford has had his license restored to him by the Canterbury Jockey Club. It will be remembered that they cancelled his permit when he figured as the owner of the horse Aide de Camp, who paid a big dividend at the last Hutt fixture, but now that he has sold his interest in the son of Hiko, the permit has been reinstated.

The Rangitikei Hunt Club subscribed to an invalid's chair for an elderly lady, who has since died, and the chair has been presented to the Wanganui Hospital.

The New Zealand Trotting Association has endorsed the disqualification by the Wellington Trotting Club of G. W. Smart and the trotting mare, Miss Hanlon, for five years, and J. Campbell, rider of the mare in one race at Petone, for two years.

Fire Cross, who is entered at Hawke's Bay, belongs to Mr D. G. Biddiford, and won the Rangitikei Point to Point race last year.

I hear to-day that the Bracelet candidate, Czarina, will not be taken to Hastings for the Jockey Club's meeting.

Mr W. Irons, who used to act as clerk of course, and Messrs G. H. Yates, W. D. Watson and J. F. Hill, late stewards of the Masterton R.C., have been accorded a vote of thanks for past services.

The Hack definition has been troubling the Ashurst-Pohangina Racing Club in common with other of the smaller clubs, and its committee

likely gave impression to the opinion that the present amount should be raised. A Hack should win £100 in one race, or £250 for collective races before joining the open ranks. The committee sent a resolution to this effect to the Masterton Jockey Club, and the latter promised its support to any suggestion in the direction of altering the at present too severe definition.

The Masterton J.C. has intimated to a certain owner that he will be placed on the forfeit list, unless trainer's fees—£26—are paid at once.

The Masterton Jockey Club has not yet secured a new site for a course nearer to town than its present one, but the Course Committee has been instructed to obtain some definite information on the subject, to be laid before the annual meeting of members in July. The Masterton R.C. stewards have forwarded Mrs James Muir a vote of condolence on the death of her husband, who for a number of years officiated as time-keeper to the Club.

It will, of course, be some time yet before thought is given to the spring engagements of Advance and Tortulla. Both are engaged in the New Zealand and Melbourne Cups, and it will be interesting to note how they will be treated in the two events. Whether the Vanguard horse will make the trip is problematical. His fame has, long ere this, preceded him, and his position in the big November Handicap can be pretty well gauged.

Personally, I would like to see such sterling good horses as Advance and Seahorse start in the Melbourne Cup, and in the weight for age races at the V.R.C. Meeting. They are such a handsome pair of gallopers that it would take something very fleet to down either, and their success would not only advertise the colony, but would still further emphasise—if further emphasis were needed—the fact that we breed first class stock here. How Mr Dakin will treat Seahorse and Advance can only be conjectured; he saw Major George's colt on Flemington heath at Australian Cup time, but he was all to pieces. Nelson's son has not started in the interim, but it is only fair to suppose that he will be handicapped on his best form, and that form, be it remembered, was particularly good. But while desiring to hear of this doughty pair battling for honours on foreign soil, it would be infinitely preferable, from our point of view, to see them under colours nearer home—in the New Zealand and Canterbury Cups. Their presence would lend a tremendous interest to either event, and the superiority of one or the other definitely determined. Of course they have not yet met, but when they do my few pence would go on Seahorse, whose performances last spring were really superb, and cannot easily be effaced from memory. Of course I am not for a moment decrying the sterling merits of Advance, who came out later in the season, and was turf king up to and after his crowning performance under 10st 5lbs at Auckland. It was a pity in one way that he closed his three-year-old season with a defeat at the Hutt, but when one comes to look back at that race, and consider the conditions pertaining to the contest, and the calibre of the colt that won, he must admit that Prosser's charge would indeed have been a wonder to have annexed the Challenge Stakes. However, that is past and gone, and it now remains for us to see what Mr Henry thinks of Advance and Seahorse in the next New Zealand Cup, and Mr Dakin in the Melbourne Cup.

Concerning Advance's nomination for Flemington, by the way, I understood that it was one of the conditions of the lease with Mr Donald Fraser that the horse should not go out of the colony during his racing career. If that is so Advance would not leave here, but since Laurel's son has achieved such a string of successes that clause will probably be cancelled.

The Voltigeur horse, Ruamahunga, who claims engagements at the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's Meeting, has been taken to Hastings by H. Barry.

Boreas was not entered for the New Zealand Cup. The stable is well represented without him, however. Sou'-Wester's son is not particularly partial to a two-mile journey.

The local mare, Czarina, has been nominated for the Bracelet and Necklace at the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's Meeting, but I do not know if it is intended to take her up. This Czarina must not be confused with the Stepniak filly that won down South the other day.

Nominations for all events, except the Maiden Steeple and Maiden Hack race, to be decided at the Wellington Racing Club's Steeplechase Meeting, are due on Friday.

J. Ayers apparently intends putting Coin over big sticks this winter, the Louis d'Or horse having been entered for both the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club and Napier Park Steeplechases.

If Fashion turns out as speedy as his famous two-year old sister, Dudu, he should be a rare one to follow when he gets into six. The son of Somnus, who is being spelled for the winter, changed hands the other day. Mr P. E. Baldwin having purchased Mr Proctor's lease of the colt, and he will in future be trained by J. Prosser.

Mr John O'Meara, who died last week, aged 77, was a sport of the old school, and claimed acquaintance with the turf when the good old long distance hack races, run in heats, were in vogue. Deceased was an uncle of Mr O'Meara, M.H.R.

The South Wairarapa Charitable Trotting Club made a profit over its last Meeting. The receipts amounted to £375 14s, and the expenditure (including £22 improvements to the course) £334. The Secretary was voted a bonus of £10 in addition to his salary, as a mark of the esteem felt for him by the Stewards for his services in bringing the Meeting to a successful issue.

Seeing that The Guard hails from this district, and his prospects in the Auckland Grand National Hurdles were regarded as being of the brightest, the fact that his downfall meant the downfall of a large army of backers is not surprising. Vanguard's son appears to be unlucky,

