

R. Derrett left the same day with Mr Stead's Guineas colt Formosan. I think the Northern youngsters will have to be particularly smart to beat either of the Canterbury pair.

Dan O'Brien's Cup candidates, Malatus and Military, are training as satisfactorily as their admirers could wish. The older horse now appears as well as ever he was.

Another Riccarton Cup horse, Djin Djin, is getting through some stiff work. His party are preparing him for the Cup.

Dundas was only started once at Ashburton, when he ran badly. Previous to the Meeting, he had done some really good gallops, but when asked to race he failed to show his true form. He is a most erratic customer at the best of times.

Strathnairn cut a very sorry figure in the race for the Ashburton Cup last week. Before the half distance was covered he was hopelessly beaten, and finished a long way behind his four opponents. Unless Strathnairn shows better form between this and November he cannot have much chance of winning a race like the New Zealand Cup.

**HAWKES BAY.**

**W. LAING—THE HASTINGS AND NAPIER PARK TRACKS—SOME TRAINING NOTES.**

September 25.

W. Laing is laid up in the hospital with consumption.

The light weight W McKinnon has quitted Mr Richardson's employ. As he can go to scale at 7 stone he should not have much difficulty in securing another berth.

A half brother to First Blood is being used as a hack by Mr J. T. Blake, of Hastings. He is by Mystical, and though poor in condition at present shows a lot of good points.

Both the Hastings and Napier Park tracks are in good condition, and are giving every satisfaction to trainers. At the latter place the new caretaker has made a lot of improvements, and they have met with the hearty approval of those most interested.

Cour de Lion, Heiress, Whitrea, Mongonui, Kissmary, Ogle, Coolgardie, The Miner, and Mr T. Quinlivan, junr.'s, team have been putting in good solid work during the past week on the Hastings track. At the Park Philanthropist, Robin Gray, Crown Prince, Jadoo, Norine, Frattle, Murmur, and Little Billee have been striking out well. The latter has been seen in schooling exercises over the sticks, in which he showed a lot of ability. On Saturday morning after doing a good working gallop he pulled up a bit lame.

**After the Races.**

**AVONDALE JOCKEY CLUB'S SPRING MEETING.**

SECOND DAY, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19.

[BY PETRONEL.]

WEATHER FINE AND RACING GOOD.

A BIG DIVIDEND FROM TEXAS.

**LABOURER WINS THE PLUMPTON HANDICAP.**

After the previous Saturday's terrible weather, a fine day was confidently looked forward to for Wednesday's racing. On the whole, though now and then it grew dull and the clouds looked rather threatening. However, only a few drops of rain fell all day, and the public who turned out in large numbers had an enjoyable time. During the day the sum of £5804 was invested on the totalisator, and this, added to the first day's takings, made a total of £10,631, a deficit of £871 on the money speculated at last year's Spring Meeting. But for the bad weather on the first day, last year's figures would have been badly beaten. The racing was throughout very interesting, although only three horses turned out for the Avondale Guineas. Though there had been plenty of growling about Mr Kvett's handicaps, very respectable fields turned out, and only three first favourites got home. Mr Cutts was not in his usual good form, and in the two year-old race, the Plumpton Handicap and the Hack Race, the starts resulted in disaster for some of the horses engaged. In the Plumpton Handicap Solo and Hohoro, second and third favourites, were badly left, and Formula also got a start that somewhat spoilt her chance. The secretary and the various other officials all worked hard, and the musical and catering arrangements left nothing to be desired.

Racing commenced with the Hurdle Race, and as Straybird was an absentee, only four faced the starter. Hylas was favourite. Cannongate was first away, but was soon afterwards passed by Forty-seven, who held an advantage throughout. Drum Major made a bid once in the straight, and the pair rose at the last hurdle almost together. On landing, Forty-seven swerved right in on the rails and stopped Drum Major. The chestnut eventually reached the post a length ahead of the brown horse.

**THE CROSS WAS VERY PALPABLE** and consequently very few people were surprised when a protest was entered. After hearing evidence, the stewards disqualified Forty-seven and awarded the stakes to Drum Major. There could be no doubt about the matter, for Forty-seven was not the two lengths ahead, allowed by

the Rules of Racing, when he crossed in front of Drum Major, and took the latter's position on the rails.

The eight acceptors for the Electric Handicap were all started. Telephone was a well-backed favourite, but the support accorded Rosophell and Kett edrum made the winner's dividend a good one. From a good start Kettledrum was, as usual, smartly off the mark, and he led the field right away to the straight, where Telephone forged ahead, and, getting through the holding, going like a warrior, he

**WON RATHER EASILY**

by better than a length from Kettledrum, with Rosophell third. St Elyn was well fancied for this race, but she was unable to go the pace with the leaders in the heavy turf.

The scratching pen was freely used in the Avondale Guineas, and only three turned out, Beddington, Landlock and Golden Rose. With Landlock giving Beddington 5lb, odds of 5 to 1 were laid on the Seaton Delaval gelding. They were landed certainly, but only after a rather inglorious display on the part of the crack. Running along by the escapes, Golden Rose nearly came down, and she afterwards took no part in the contest. The other two raced in company until the home turn was reached. Here Landlock went to the front, and Gallagher had to ride all he knew to get his mount home first. Probably had Gall streaked away when Landlock got ahead, instead of waiting, the result would have been different. Perhaps Beddington did not like the going, for his form was not high class, and not by any means up to expectation.

The nine two-year-olds on the card sported silk for the Nursery Handicap. Liquidator, Sparkling Water, Green and Gold and Maroon and Gold were the best backed in the order named. The start was not a good one. Sparkling Water was badly left, and Green and Gold, Liquidator, and Kissaline all got away after the leaders, Maroon and Gold and Little Bess. The first named got all the best of the dismissal, and though Little Bess made a game effort to tackle the Ida gelding it was of no avail, and Maroon and Gold

**RAN HOME A COMFORTABLE WINNER**

by a couple of lengths. Kissaline was third, and Liquidator fourth.

The Pony Race attracted the twelve acceptors, of whom Mara was backed as a moral. Clanman was second favourite and Brookland third choice. The outsider, Texas, was quickest on his feet, with Blue Paul at his girth, and the Derringer pony making every post a winning one

**SCORED SOMEWHAT EASILY.**

ultimately winning without ever being troubled, by two lengths from Rapit, with Clansman third and First Whisper fourth. Texas paid the sensational dividend of £75 3s. The stable had a share in the tote money. After the race, of course, there were many people who ought to have backed the winner.

Winsome and Sultan were the only scratchings from the Plumpton Handicap. Of the twelve starters St Ursula was made first favourite with Solo, Hohoro, Dayntree, and Toroa in close attendance in the estimation of punters. This race was spoilt by the start, for when Mr Cutts raised the barrier Solo and Hohoro had their tails to the tape, while Formula was not ready. Dayntree and Swiftfoot were the first to break the line, and were in the van until going along the back. Here Toroa and Brilliant joined the leaders, and, followed by St Ursula and Dayntree, this order was maintained until the escapes were reached. Rounding the home turn St Ursula ran up to the front rank, and Labourer also made a forward move. The mare turned into the straight about a length ahead of Labourer and Toroa, and a

**SLASHING RACE HOME**

resulted in the victory of Labourer by a length. Toroa was third, two lengths behind St Ursula. Dayntree was fourth, and Hohoro, who ran tremendously fast for three-quarters of a mile, finished fifth.

The six coloured on the card came out for the Hack Handicap. Ambition was first fancy, and then backers liked the Papakura trained Defender. From the straggling start, of which Defender got the worst, Bacchus and Balbirnie went away with the lead. When nearly two furlongs had been covered, Minerve joined issue and raced alongside the others until well in the straight. Then the Hestia filly went away, and though Ambition did his best to catch her she won comfortably by two lengths. Balbirnie was third, and Volee fourth.

Sultan, Toroa, Val Rosa, Miss Blair, Balbirnie, and Mara going out reduced the field for the Mount Albert Handicap to seven. Of this number Winsome was a strong fancy, with Kettledrum second choice. Cuirassette, Kettledrum and St Elyn were responsible for the early pacemaking, but Winsome was going very well, and once in the straight she quickly settled the pretensions of the others, and raced home

**A WINNER BY A LENGTH**

from Rosophell, who came with a great dash at the finish, as did Swiftfoot, who got third position.

**ASHBURTON RACING CLUB'S SPRING MEETING.**

[BY OUR CANTERBURY CORRESPONDENT.]

The Ashburton Racing Club experienced bad weather for the opening of its Spring Meeting on Thursday. Rain fell shortly after proceedings commenced, and continued for the rest of the day. Fields were larger than usual, and some of the races were well contested. Racing commenced with the Legmoor Handicap, five furlongs. There were eight starters, the best-known performers engaged being Hermosa, 9st 2lb; Warrington, 8st 10lb; Ladykiller, 8st 3lb; Belligerent, 8st 8lb, and Corusa, 7st 10lb. Five furlongs is the distance old Warrington likes, and he

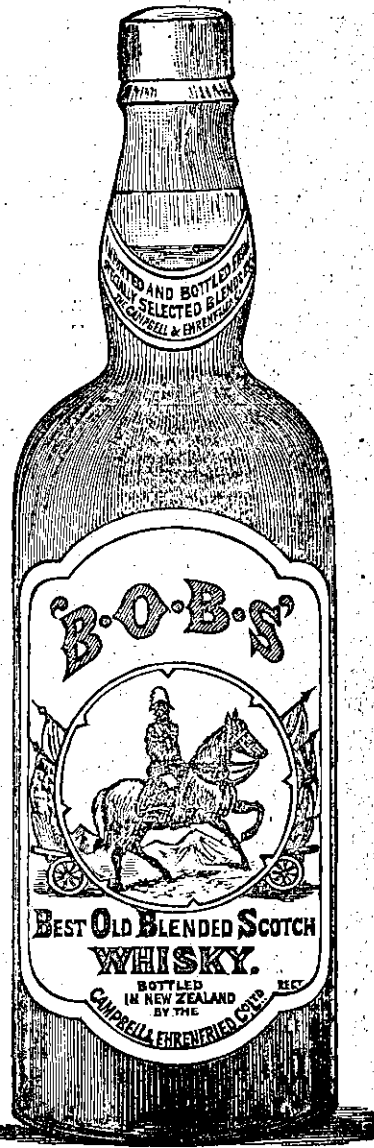
went out favourite. Gun Rose, 6st 10lb, and Hermosa were in the lead for half the distance, when the favourite passed them, and won easily by a length from Orphan, who defeated Hermosa by a similar distance for second place. Div, £3 12s. The field for the Ashburton Cup, one mile and a-quarter, consisted of Nihilist, 9st 3lb; Strathnairn, 8st 10lb; Huku, 8st; Phyrne, 7st 7lb; Suzannah, 6st 2lb. Dundas was accepted for, but his owner did not start him. Suzannah was a slightly better favourite than Nihilist, and got away quickly. He piloted the field all round the back stretch, being fully four lengths ahead of Phyrne and Huku at the half distance. Nihilist moved up to the leaders at the five furlongs post and quickly overhauling Huku and Phyrne, went on in pursuit of Suzannah. Nihilist got his head in front at the distance, and won comfortably by a length, while the same distance separated Suzannah from Huku. Phyrne was fourth, and Strathnairn was a long way behind last. Div, £3 12s. The Fairfield Plate, five furlongs, brought out nine starters, Terrapin, 8st, being most fancied, with Clandeboye, 8st 5lb, and Bonaparte, 8st 5lb, next in demand. Terrapin, who cut out the running from the start, was in front right to within the distance, when Bonaparte, who had always been in close attendance, assumed command, and won by a length. Flame, 7st 9lb, was third. Div, £5 9s. St. Dennis, who has been running extremely well lately, was the popular selection in the Welter Handicap, seven furlongs. Bloomer, 9st 3lb, whipped round at the start, and took no further part in the race. Corusa was first away, and reached the straight two clear lengths ahead of the favourite. With a furlong to go, St Dennis had drawn alongside Corusa, and after a sharp tussle, beat her in the run home by nearly a length. Sub Rosa, 8st 11lb was third. The winner carried 10st 9lb, and returned his supporters a dividend of £2 5s. Izal, an aged gelding by Vanguard, easily annexed the Novel Race of six furlongs, beating Magg, 9st 7lb, by ten lengths, All Saints gaining third place. Nor-Wester was in the lead until within fifty yards of the winning post, when he fell clean away. Izal, who carried 8st, paid £2 11s, and was bought in for £32. Only three saddled up for the Spring Handicap, six furlongs, Paladin, 9st 6lb, Grandshot, 7st, and Terrapin, 6st 10lb. The two light weights made the running together until the distance was reached, when Paladin easily ran past them and won by a length from Grandshot. Div, £1 7s. The Galloway Handicap produced an exciting struggle between The Queen, 6st 10lb, St Loander, 8st 3lb and Weazle, 7st 12lb. The first-named, who is a four-year-old filly by Phæthon out of Goldfinch, beating St Loanda by half a length. Div, £4 19s.

The Meeting was continued on Friday in fine weather, when some capital racing was witnessed. Warrington repeated his success of the first day by carrying off the first race on the card, the Allenton Handicap, six furlongs. He had four opponents, Belligerent, 8st 5lb, The Orphan, 7st 13lb, Whirlwood, 7st 10lb and Corusa, 7st 3lb. The Orphan led the field for half-a-mile, when she was joined by Warrington, who was in front at the distance, and remained there, winning by three lengths. The Orphan was second, half a length ahead of old Belligerent. The winner, who started a strong favourite, carried 9st 2lb and paid a dividend of £1 17s. St Loander, 8st 5lb, who came second in the Galloway Handicap on the first day, annexed the Pony Handicap by a short head from Taranto, 9st 10lb, The Queen, 7st 13lb, gaining third place. Div, £5 8lb. The field for the Tinwald Handicap, one mile, was as follows: Nihilist, 9st 12lb; Dundas, 9st 5lb; The Spinner, 8st 8lb; Suzannah, 7st 3lb, and Phyrne, 7st 3lb. Dundas was made favourite, but after running in the lead with Phyrne for half-a-mile, he collapsed, and finished several lengths behind the leading horses at the finish. Nihilist went to the front in the last half-mile, but his jockey, McComb, was caught napping, and The Spinner managed to get level and make a dead heat, with Suzannah third. The dividend on Nihilist was £1 15s; and on The Spinner £2 10s. Terrapin, the three-year-old colt by Clanranald—Teradine, secured the Trial Handicap, defeating Flame by a length; Sally was third and Bonaparte next. Div, £6. Huku, carrying 9st 12lb, had very little difficulty in defeating Lady Medallist, 8st, and Bloomer, 8st 13lb, in the Coldstream Welter, one mile. Huku settled his opponent's at the half-mile post, and finished three lengths ahead of Lady Medallist. Div, £1 14s. The Disposal Handicap saw Izal again returned a winner, while Constance and Nor-Wester filled the places, with Magg fourth. Div, £1 18s. In the Farewell Handicap, Grandshot, 7st 7lb, a six-year-old gelding by Artillery—Rosedale, got an advantage at the start, never being headed, and won easily from Sub Rosa, 8st 6lb, Hermosa, 9st 2lb, third. Paladin, 10st 9lb, who was favourite, Ladykiller, 7st 10lb and Corusa, 7st 7lb, were the other starters. Div, £14 16s.

**THE ENGLISH RACECOURSES.**

Mr Georges Voorhees, who, while over in England last year, wrote many interesting letters to the Thoroughbred Record, published in Lexington, Kentucky, writes as follows to that paper from his home in Illinois under date of July 30 this year. While this paper (*Breeder and Sportsman*) may have been a little sceptical as to the performance of Korosko as reported last year, as the peculiarities of the course were then unknown to us, we have now no doubt that Mr Voorhees was correct in his timing. His letter to the Thoroughbred Record is as follows:—"In one of my letters from London to The Record last year I mentioned that I had timed Korosko, three years, 103lbs, over the last mile of the Epsom course in 1.33 2-5, and I saw afterwards that one of your exchanges (*Breeder and Sportsman*) seemed to be a little sceptical as to

the performance. Shortly afterward Harrow, three years, and, I think, with 126lbs, ran the mile at Lingfield in 1.32 4-5. I do not know what weight Caiman carried the other day when he ran the mile at Lingfield in 1.33 2-5, but I am sure that he made the distance a little faster than reported, because I have never seen a race timed by Benson's man that he did not time from the drop of the starter's flag when the horses are always a little back of the post, and in one instance he made the time nine seconds slower than the actual time, as in the case of Newhaven II in the City and Suburban he gave the time as 2.18 4-5, while I timed the race in 2.09 4-5. I was within ten feet of the finish, and could clearly see the horses pass the starting post. On this year's Derby day, Mr Al Hall, of Sacramento, Cal., and myself timed Gigho over the last mile at Epsom in 1.34 and Bridge three-quarters in 1.06 1/2, and Virginia Earle five-eighths in 56 2-5, and at Brighton this year Clarehaven, three years, 106lbs, won the Brighton Cup, one and a-quarter miles, and did the distance, according to Benson's chronograph, in 2.05 1-5. Then Piety in 1898 won the Alexandra Plate, three miles, with 132lbs, in 5.26, while Faugh-a-Ballagh, with 127lbs, ran three miles in 5.26 nearly twenty years before Norfolk made his "world's record" in 5.27 with only 100lbs up. So in looking over the records made by horses in the different countries, it would seem that our turf correspondents should be more careful about claiming the world's records as they do every day for our horses. I do not consider Caiman's mile, 1.33 2-5, as wonderful; I am sure that Cyllene, Flying Fox, or Knight of the Thistle last year could have covered the Lingfield mile in 1.33 or better with 126lbs up. There are several horses in England on the turf this year that can beat Caiman at a mile. I am also positive on one thing, and that is, that all courses in England, except the miles at Lingfield, Brighton and at Epsom are from to to four seconds slower than our scraped tracks with their thrown up turns."



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**AUCKLAND RACING CLUB'S SPRING MEETING.**

DEC. 26, 28 AND JAN. 1 AND 2.

THE GREAT NORTHERN GUINEAS (1900) OF 500 SOVS. One mile.  
Mr T. B. Bell's br f Rosophell, by Hotchkiss—Reproach Messrs R. and E. Duder's gr c Takapuna, by St Hippo—Anna  
Mr A. A. Phillips' ch f Minerve, by Nelson—Hestia Major F. N. George's ch f Zealous, by Nelson—Moonga Mr J. Lynch's ch f Golden Rose, by St Leger—Bangle Mrs Lennard's br c Val Rosa, by Seaton Delaval—Vieux Rose  
Mr John Marshall's b c Paul Seaton, by Seaton Delaval—Leocant  
Hon H. Mosman's br f Formula, by Hotchkiss—Formo Mr L. D. Nathan's b g Beddington, by Seaton Delaval—Miss Letty  
Mr E. F. Roche's ch f Fairy House, by Seaton Delaval—Lady Moth  
Mr F. Watson's br c Tupara, by Hotchkiss—Queen Cole Mr G. Wright's ch f St Amy, by St Leger—Hazel Messrs L. D. and N. A. Nathan's b g Ambition, by St Hippo—Nellie