

An article by "Atlas" on the new Cambria Park Stud will appear in our next issue.

Fifty-five applications were sent in for the position of clerk in the Auckland Racing Club's office. These applications were reduced to seven by the Committee on Monday, and the final appointment will be made this week.

The smallest field numerically, as well as otherwise, on the first day of the Avondale races, will line up in the pony race. There does not seem to be as many ponies in work this season as heretofore.

The famous stone wall at Flemington, which is known as the "Cathedral," is 4ft high, and the highest jump on the Randwick Steeplechase course is a log fence which measures 4ft 1 1/2 in.

Two Lochiel colts have been nominated for the English Derby of 1904. Both of them were bred in New South Wales, and are nominated by the brothers, Mr F. Foy and Mr H. V. Foy. The former gentleman has also nominated a Lochiel filly for the Oaks of the same year.

Colonel Shilinski, who is by the Wellington Park-bred Zalinski, won another steeplechase at Caulfield on September 6th, when he annexed the Champion Steeplechase, carrying 12st. In a field of seven, which included the ex-New Zealander, Kaimate (10st 9lbs), Shilinski was backed down to 6 to 4.

Trenton's stock still continue to win in Australia. In addition to Wakeful's victories at Randwick, the five-year-old mare Omrah, by Trenton-Oratava, won the Heatherlie Handicap at Caulfield on September 6th, while Seclusion, by another Auckland-bred horse, Carnage, won the Menzie Stakes.

The friends of Sequence and Cyanide were very sore over the Epsom Handicap, each claiming that their horse should have won, but as far as Cyanide is concerned, Air Motor proved in the Metropolitan that the Epsom running was no fluke by beating the Metal mare all the way, though she was meeting her 10lb worse than in the Epsom. It must be remembered that in the mile race Air Motor took on the not too easy task of running down a brilliant customer like Ihex, and after doing so had enough left in her to bring her home. Joe Burton is of opinion that Air Motor would have beaten Sequence and Cyanide comfortably had she stayed back with them and let something else have a cut at Ihex. Racing is a funny game, and every race-goer should always be prepared for the unexpected. On public form the Metropolitan looked at the mercy of Patronage or Cyanide, but neither ever flattered their backers, while on late public form neither Queen of Sheba nor the runner-up, The Persian, had a million to one chance, but they ran first and second. Queen of Sheba, who carried a deal of "stale money," was very anxious at the post, where she had the inside berth. She jumped off among the first four and got a good place, which won her the race; but Patronage turned half round just as Mr Watson gave the word, and he got off badly, but through no fault of the starter. Patronage, Felicitious, and Blue Metal were the last three around the first bend, and they finished in line behind the placed horses. Patronage moved shortly in his preliminary, and while taking gentle exercise on the tan the next day he sweated suspiciously. In spite of a keen southerly breeze that was blowing at the time. This I take to be an indication of coming muscle soreness, that will need skillful treatment to avert. If Patronage becomes sore in his present light condition his Melbourne Cup chance will look blue, for a horse to win such a race will need to be a trifle above himself at this stage, rather than over-done. ("Milroy.")

The South Australian Derby was won by Rianzi after a good race, and in a field of six, paid a dividend of £4 12s. The amount of money which passed through the totalisator was £12,004, the smallest amount on Derby Day for several years. An Adelaide writer remarks:—There were two features of the racing to impress it on the mind—firstly, a finish in the Derby as exciting, probably, as any ever seen in a classic race, and secondly, the downfall of the favorite in every race.

An English paper, in referring to the recent death at Newmarket of Mr W. S. Martin, at the age of 81, says that in his youthful days he was engaged in the training stable at Horscheath, which contained the racehorses belonging to Mr S. Batson. One of them was the renowned Plenipotentiary, winner of the Derby in 1834, beating amongst others, Lord Jersey's Glencoe, previously defeated by him for a R.M. Sweepstakes during the Newmarket Craven Meeting. As a boy W. S. Martin rode "Plenipo" in his work, and always spoke with enthusiasm of the excellence of that remarkable horse. Mr Martin's version of the cause which led to the defeat of Plenipotentiary for the St. Leger won by Touchstone differed from some of the statements on the point published at the time and in recent years. The deceased trainer had at one time under his charge Puste, second to Audrey for the Cesarewitch Stakes of 1861, and he prepared the four-year-old Tim Whiffler for the Ascot Cup of 1863. "Tim" ran a dead heat with Buckstone, and was defeated when they again went to the post. Mr Martin owned and trained Philomelo victorious for the Great Eastern Railway Handicap of 1871, and Rossignol, who in the previous season carried off the Brethly Plate in the Newmarket Craven week. He took interest in various sports, notably in coursing. His son E. Martin—who in after years became a well-known trainer—had the mount on Bathilde when she beat a huge field for the Cambridgeshire of 1862, and a younger E. Martin, his grandson, rode Oberon to victory for the Lincolnshire Handicap of 1887 and Don Juan for the Cesarewitch of 1883. Among other winners prepared by Mr Martin was Grand Coup, a son of Gladiator out of the Stockwell mare Aline. In the colors of Mr "Lancelot" Grand Coup won the Somersetshire Stakes of 1871, but on Epsom Downs a week later he finished no nearer than ninth to Favonius for the Derby.

The last match which the Australians play in England, that against the players, promises to result in some tall scoring.

The well-known sporting writer "Naughton" pronounces the fight between Jeffries and Fitzsimmons a fake. It was he who handed the sealed letter to Mayor Schneitz before the fight.

Is the old system doomed? There is a belief among the followers of the Grand Circuit that this year will practically seal the fate of the old style three in five heat system (writes the San Francisco "Breeder"). No one subject was more fully discussed during the initial meeting of the circuit and the popularity of the two in three system as compared with the other was freely commented on. The public and horsemen have both declared in favour of the shorter programme. The one thing necessary to make the shorter system of racing a success is for all the circuit managers to agree upon a uniform system of racing. Trainers do not like to prepare their horses for a race of five, six or seven heats one week and on the next race on the shorter plan, and take a chance of meeting horses prepared especially for the shorter races. Probably the greatest victory for the two in three plan would be to have the futurities raced on this system. Once trainers get into the habit of preparing for this style of races they would not go back. One stumbling block to the shorter system of racing has been the manager, who has been afraid that the volume of money bet would be less. There can be no better authority on this question than the privilege men, and they unanimously declare that more money is bet on the shorter races—the speculators bet heavier and with more confidence when they know the drivers will not be able to lay up three or four heats and kill the good horses. Discussions as to the shortenings of races are generally confined to the winter months and forgotten once the bell taps, but this summer there are many owners of horses and track managers carefully observing and discussing the racing system. Owners are getting tired of having good horses spoiled by the strenuous preparation needed for a five or seven-heat race, and are commencing to investigate the merits of shorter races. Of course when they do this there is but one result—they are converted to the shorter system. And soon it will not be three in five with a few two in three, but two in three with a few dashes—and after that, what?—

The Metropolitan winner, Queen of Sheba, is on the small side, and in taking her out early under her light weight, and thereby evading interference, the best possible course was adopted with her (writes "Pilot" in the Sydney "Reference"). A little over a week prior to the race she had an extraordinarily good gallop of about a mile and a quarter, and there is no doubt that the strong support accorded her was consequent on that spin. She was also backed for the Epsom, but in a bustling race like that her size was against her, and she never got out. It is understood that R. Wootton benefited largely by the mare's success, and several of his friends also shared in the good thing. As she only cost her owner 55 guineas about a year ago, and since then has won five races, Queen of Sheba has proved a good investment.

In Melbourne Abundance has been made favourite for the Melbourne Cup.

For the V.R.C. Derby Abundance is a strong favourite, with Strata Florida next in demand.

Seven members of the Australian Eleven have made 1000 runs, or over, in the matches played in England, namely, Trumper, Hill, Duff, Noble, Darling Hopkins and Armstrong.

San Fran was landed in Wellington in good condition, and by this time has probably reached his new home in the Hawke's Bay district.

Wakeful's form in Sydney strengthens the idea that with all her weight she will have to be reckoned with in the Melbourne Cup.

Mr T. B. Bell, who has raced horses in Auckland for the past fifteen years, died last week. Mr Bell was comparatively a young man, being only 37 years of age.

St Peter has been taken in hand again by John Chafe, and appears to be in good health. It is to be hoped that St Paul's brother will stand another preparation, for he is undoubtedly a speedy customer.

Harry Alexander, who has been riding for many years, got the muscles of his back torn badly when Madman fell with him at the Marton meeting, and he says he has had enough of riding now. It will be some time before he can get about.

Nonette continues in Auckland to be a prime favourite for the New Zealand Cup, and he also continues to please everyone by the way in which he gets through his work on the training track. On Tuesday morning he got over a mile and a-half on the tan in very pleasing style.

At the Durham Yards last Friday Austerlity was submitted to auction. At 175 guineas Austerlity was knocked down to the bid of Mr J. Reginald, and Sentinel went to the same buyer at 90 guineas. The bay mare Lightning by Natator—Gladiator mare changed hands at 30 guineas. A three-year-old filly by Soult out of Dolly was passed in at 50 guineas.

A recent issue of a San Francisco paper contains the following:—Imp. Elsie, 1.40, dam of Carlos and other star sprinters, is to be fitted with a wooden leg. She was turned into a corral with a team of truck horses several days ago, and had her left hind leg broken by a kick. As she is bred to the celebrated Yankee Doodle, and the foal would be worth 1,000 dollars if delivered alive, every possible means will be taken to save the life of the dam. The leg has been amputated, and a wooden leg will be furnished the mare, who, before the accident, was valued at 5,000 dollars.

The Wellington Racing Club's annual meeting negatived a proposal to license bookmakers, and decided to employ a paid judge in the future.

The Shannon, Durable, and Werekino arrived in Auckland to fulfil their Avondale engagements during the week.

It will be seen by advertisement that Mr Alfred Coleman has become a fully fledged member of Tattersall's. Mr Coleman is well-known in sporting circles, and will, no doubt, receive a liberal share of business.

Mr Hayr, received a very satisfactory acceptance for the events on the programme for the first day's racing at Avondale. Twelve were left in the Cup and a like number in the Flying Stakes.

At the Doncaster sale in England on September 12, the Duke of Westminster purchased a yearling filly by Persimmon—Phantasia, for 5,000 guineas.

The annual meeting of members of the Auckland Trotting Club is convened to be held on Monday, 22nd inst., at half-past two p.m.

At Stibbington Curacoa by Cuirassier—Rubina has produced a filly by St. Paul. Curacoa's half-brother last year brought 340 guineas as a yearling.

The proprietary of Sylvia Park had a bit of bad luck last week when the Seaton Delavel—Waitemata yearling filly fell when gambolling in the paddock, and breaking her leg had to be destroyed. The loss is a severe one, as anything out of Waitemata is now looked upon as valuable, and the defunct filly had her full share of good looks.

Grey Seaton, La Valette and Kelburn will probably be sent to Napier to fulfil their Hawke's Bay Guineas engagements.

The horse that holds the record of most starts for the Australian season, which has just closed, is a circus horse. Miller's "Racing Chronicle" shows that the grey Hostage, by Wellesley—Lone Heart, attached to Hyland's Circus, started at 27 race meetings, took part in 60 races, won 15, was second 13 times, and third 7 times. He won £313 in stakes. It is not a little singular that the horse next to Hostage in the number of starts is Dick Turpin, who, during the past season, took part in 55 races. The circus business was thus well represented on the racecourse, for what hippodrome has not made a feature of Dick Turpin's ride to York?

An English paper writing of the Lords' Committee on Betting says:—"We observe with satisfaction from the report of the Lords' Committee on Betting that the plain fact of the inherence of betting in human nature is recognised. Laws may be made as legislators will. The Legislature might, if it pleased, declare all betting a crime punishable by imprisonment and hard labour, but by doing so it would not have the smallest effect upon the man who has a dispute with his fellow, and makes a bet to settle it. If the law touched him, in fact, he and his like would very speedily take effective steps to abolish the statute or the people who made it. By Leeming's Act, Parliament made one abortive attempt to put an end to wagering, and the Courts have driven so many coaches and horses through it that the experiment is never likely to be repeated."

Wakeful has again given unmistakable proof that she is a wonderful mare by winning all the races she started for at the Australian Jockey Club's Spring Meeting, these races including the Spring Stakes, Craven Plate and Randwick Plate. Since Wakeful has been in the hands of Mr Leslie Macdonald she has won £11,369 in stakes, and it is not surprising to find her owner refusing £6,000 for her. Here in New Zealand we take a particular interest in Wakeful, as we look upon her as an off-shot of the Wellington Park Stud, as she is by Trenton, the son of Musket and Frailty. Wakeful's time for the Craven Plate, one mile and a-quarter, 2min 8sec, has only once been beaten, namely, by Carbine in 1890, Carbine's time being a second faster. New Zealand horses have been fairly successful in this event. Sir Modred won it in 1884, Carbine in 1890, and Loyalty in 1893.

Football is a manly game
That hardens muscle, knits the frame,
And makes New Zealand's hardy youth
Our pside and strength, and that's the
truth.
Bad coughs and colds attack the
strong,
As much the weak, that's sure,
Let both—they never can go wrong—
"Take Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

* WOLFE'S *
* SCHNAPPS *
* The Leading *
* Medicinal *
* Beverage of *
* th Age. *
