

(By "The Judge.")

It is said that hares are becoming very plentiful in the Forty-Mile Bush, and are rapidly increasing in number.

Mr S. Hordern, junr., of Sydney, called on me during the week, and told me that the reason the second shipment of hares did not come to hand by the Union liner Waikare on Monday was the extreme difficulty experienced by Mr Goggin in trapping a sufficient number for a fixed train and steamer. On one day two or three hundred may be secured, but they cannot be kept in captivity, and then the very time they are urgently wanted perhaps not more than a dozen can be captured. The hares are almost certain to arrive on Sunday next.

Mr Hordern is the eldest son of Mr Sam Hordern, the proprietor of the largest mercantile institution in Australasia, and is a comparatively recent addition to the list of coursing men on the other side. He is a coursing partner of Mr H. M. Evans, proprietor of the Sydney "Referee," and is making a tour through New Zealand, together with his brother-in-law, Mr J. See, junr., a son of the New South Wales Prime Minister.

Nominations for the Maiden and All-aged Stakes, to be run at the opening meeting of the North New Zealand Coursing Association are due to close on Monday evening next with Mr Taylor, at the City Club Hotel. The third payment for the Challenge Stakes is due at the same time and place.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

Among the pictures appearing in this issue is one of Tressider, who on Saturday week won the Sculling Championship of Australia. Immense interest was taken in Sydney in the result of the race on the Parramatta River between him and Pearce, the river being simply alive with craft of all sorts and sizes. Tressider has now challenged Towns to row for the Championship of the World.

The Polo sports attracted a goodly crowd to Alexandra Park on Saturday. A photograph shows Mr E. D. O'Rourke, the hon. secretary of the Gymkhana, on his crack polo pony Cinder.

A snapshot taken at Papakura Races on Saturday shows a number of well-known faces in the ring at the old course. One or two fairly well-known horses are also shown, these all having won races at the recent meetings in the Taranaki districts.

Madame Hooton, the eminent contralto, who visits New Zealand with the Westminster Abbey Glee and Concert Party.

The clever little child artist, Vera Kearns, is a very popular singer in New Zealand, and is at present appearing at the Royal Theatre, Wellington, under Mr P. R. Dix's management.

Mr W. F. Hawtrej, the principal of Hawtrej's Comedy Company, at present appearing at His Majesty's Theatre with the fascinating "Message From Mars" as the Tramp. In this particular piece Mr Hawtrej shows one of his best impersonations.

The talented and musical Steele-Payne Family of Bellringers, who are at present touring the towns in the Waikato district, are due to appear in Auckland at Easter. Their coming will be eagerly looked for by the musical public of Auckland.

Inter-Provincial.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

CANTERBURY.

Christchurch, March 24.

Weights for the Great Easter and Great Autumn Handicaps appeared sharp to the advertised time, and of course have formed the topic of much discussion in sporting circles. Starting off with the Great Easter, it was generally anticipated Mr. Henrys would give Advance close on 11st. A pound under that

weight is very little, but after analysing the performances of the black son of Vanguard, the question arises what is going to beat him. Well, I have carefully looked down the list, and I cannot sort out anything that I would prefer to name at present, as likely to defeat the Champion. Advance carried over 11st in the Wanganui Cup, so with just 13lb in a seven furlong race, even in select company, I feel sure he will beat the opposition. If Pampero were perfectly sound, I would favour his chance. Accounts come from Dunedin that the once brilliant Sprinter is alright again, and if this is so, he will take a lot of beating. Cruciform has last year's win to recommend her, but I do not think she can beat Advance, neither do I think Orloff can. Pallas will have to improve on his latest form to have any chance. I hear he is likely to be reserved for the Great Autumn. St. Denis is nicely weighted, so is Westguard, who generally runs well at Riccarton. Without going fully down the list, I have selected the following lot to supply the winner:—Advance, Pampero, St. Denis, Westguard, Evelyn Wood, and Neil Gwyn, with preference for the first-named. The half dozen I select to furnish the winner of the Great Autumn, are—Cannie Chiel, Lady Lillian, Pallas, Valdimir, The Qvbnnon, and General Symons, with a preference for Lady Lillian.

Acceptances for the two Easter Handicaps are due on Friday. Hon. J. D. Ormond is without a representative in the big Handicaps at Riccarton at Easter. All sportsmen would welcome another good one to represent the all Cerise.

Step Dancer and King Stork ran a mile and a-quarter on Saturday, in 2min 17sec. Pallas joined in at the nine furlongs post. In a good brush home, Step-dancer held an advantage from King Stork. Cannie Chiel accomplished two sound gallops last week, one over a mile and a-quarter, and the other over a mile and a-half.

Tercelet left for Blenheim on Thursday, to race in the Marlborough Cup. I do not think the Claranald colt can beat Volley, who must have regained her best form.

Buckland's team of trotting horses, seven in number, reached Riccarton on Friday, and are located at Pierces. It is thought by those who have seen Fritz many times, that the Australian Champion is not looking as well as could be wished, but this is probably due to the effects of the voyage over from Sydney. Ribbonwood is at present favourite or the big match, and is likely to remain so up to the day. A full brother to Fritz is a handsome colt. The two-year-old colt, Quincy, is also a fine youngster, and will compete in the Juvenile Stakes.

Cannie Chiel is one of the fancied candidates for the Great Autumn Handicap. He is standing well up to his work, and if he only manages to thrive on the hard going, should be among the leaders at the finish of that event.

Lady Lillian, who had been doing splendidly in her work, met with a slight mishap one day last week. By some means the mare picked up a nail, but it is not thought that any serious injury will result.

Welbeck is putting in some fast work, and is going along all right. On Saturday he ran six furlongs by himself in 1min 20sec, easing up towards the finish.

Delarey is showing plenty of pace in his gallops. He is evidently a smart colt, and should add more stake-money to the credit of Seaton Delaval before the season closes.

Dundas has been thrown out of work, and is at present running in a paddock. The Stepniak mare, Scylla, is moving along, and appears to have recovered from the effects of the accident she met with in the Spring.

The Nelson-Moonga mare, Zealous, won the Oxford Cup, on March 17, beating Narcissus 9st 13lb, and Clytie 9st 8lb. Zealous carried 9st 5lb, and after a punishing finish just defeated Narcissus by a head. Nell Gwyn followed up her recent successes by scoring another win at Oxford. The highly-bred Captain Webb filly, made no race of the Stewards' Handicap, winning by five lengths, pulling up in 1min 18sec. Narcissus and Metallic were second and third. Nell Gwynne is in the Great Easter, having 6st 6lb, and she is a smart mare. Secret Society scored a double victory at Waimate, winning the St. Patrick's Handicap and Harvest

Handicap, in big races. Secret Society carried 8st 5lb, and beat Bulawayo, 7st 10lb, Stelma 8st., finishing third, and in his second race Secret Society carried 9st 9lb, and beat St. Monica, 8st 7lb, Stelma, 8st 10lb, again occupying third place. Secret Society won both events in easy fashion, not being asked to extend himself in the Harvest Handicap.

Covenant Maid would probably have won a double at Waimate had she got away with the field in the Welter Handicap. After getting left several lengths at the start, the mare just failed to catch Miss O'Connell. In the Studholme Stakes, Covenant Maid had an easy win, the opposition being only moderate.

Skobeloff started in the Oxford Cup but, although he ran well for a mile, he quite failed to pace it with the leaders in the last two furlongs. Cannonshot won a couple of races at the Allford Forest meeting last week.

Canteen was scratched at 1.10 p.m. on Friday, for the Great Easter and Autumn Handicaps.

WELLINGTON.

Wellington, March 23.

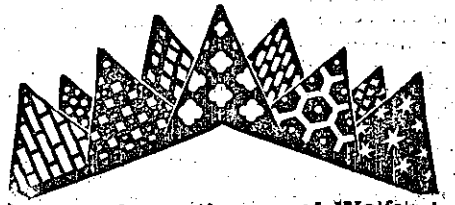
At the kind invitation of the officials of the Horowhenua Racing Club, I assisted at their annual fixture, held on St. Patrick's Day. The executive, with commendable energy, some six months ago purchased seventy acres of land within half-a-mile of the Levin railway station, and by the date of their meeting had a first-rate course laid out, together with a grandstand, weighing, jockeys', and secretary's room that would not discredit many older clubs. The course is oval-shaped and nearly one mile in circumference. Those who attended the meeting enjoyed a real good day's sport. The officials of the club apparently thoroughly understood their duties; there was not even a protest to disturb the harmony of the meeting. Events were started on time by the well-known starter, Mr "Charley" O'Connor, so that visitors were enabled to easily catch the train. The racing was an improvement on what is usually seen at hack meetings, some well-bred animals being engaged. H. Fletcher, who trains on the Porirua beach, had a well-deserved win for the patrons of his stable, winning six out of eight events, with Catspaw, Trial; Betsy, Flying, and St. Patrick's Handicap; Dauber, Hurdles; Bluespur, Shorts; and Lisonia, the Park Stakes. The somewhat erratic Benefactor, who won the Cup, was ridden a nice race by Carmont, and just pipped that unlucky mare Lifebelt, on the post. Betsy and Levonnia are evidently regaining form, and should score again very shortly.

Prosser's stable was represented by Position, Hamus, Exmoor, and Ora, but a couple of seconds was their share of the prize-money. As the weights apportioned them were not prohibitive, it is evident that the Porirua stable contains some moderate animals, as well as champions.

Mr Tilly, of Wanganui, brought a team to the meeting consisting of Midia II, Mai Mia, and Handsome Rose, but like Prosser he also went home empty handed.

The Masterton meeting took place on the 19th and 20th in beautiful weather. The Opaki racecourse is situated too far from Masterton to suit the bulk of the general public, and the attendance in consequence suffers. The fixture is, however, a favourite one with racing men, and good sport is the rule. A number of the officials are men who have owned and raced horses. Messrs A. W. Cave, J. Macara, C. Vallance, A. G. Pilmer, and others on the executive have little to learn in racing matters, and well managed and honest racing can always be enjoyed on the Opaki course.

The class of horses engaged were only moderate, Plaidie, Tikarawa, Governess, Shrapnel Shell, and Narcotic being a cut above the average, whilst Hately, La Torpedo, and Waikakatio are capable of being greatly improved. The ancient Volley, who is now trained by "Bob" Kingan, was in nice trim, and favoured by a light impost easily annexed the principal event. Benefactor, fresh from his Horowhenua victory, was obviously sore, and could not act on the hard going. Plaidie, I think, also found the going unsuitable,



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and ran better on the second day, when the track was in good order, owing to there having been a heavy rainfall during the night.

Tikarawa, although suffering from a bruised heel, ran two good races, and with care should prove a very useful slave to his owner. Narcotic (a nice stamp of a gelding) looks somewhat light, and was unlucky in getting interfered with on both days. The Taranaki mare Governess was also unlucky, inasmuch as her rider, when apparently winning the March Handicap nicely, eased up, allowing Pure Silver to snatch the race in the last few strides. Platypus and Monganus, who were favourably treated in the matter of weight, had the settlement of the principal event on the second day to themselves. The former showed great improvement on her first day's form, winning comfortably.

A pair of ancients, Sentry and Rebel, were raced at the meeting, but their mentors will require to find even worse company to enable them to pay training expenses.

Ostiak is indeed a most expensive animal for his owners. For the third time he has just missed securing a good stake. In the C.J.C. Winter Cup Mr Paterson's mare Waiwhera just beat him, at Wanganui Heroism, the property of D. O'Brien, caused him to strike his colours, and at Hastings Paterson's representative Ringman was the cause of his downfall.

Mr T. R. McDonald, the recently-elected Wellington Racing Club's steward, evidently intends to rouse his fellow stewards up to a proper sense of their duties to the racing public. Already at his instigation a committee has been formed to wait upon the Government re a railway from the Lower Hutt to the Hutt Park racecourse by way of White's line, the club to pay interest on the cost, and also guarantee a certain revenue in the way of fares. The committee are to report early next month.

OTAGO.

March 21st.

The Gore Racing Club held their Autumn Meeting on the 17th and 18th, but were unfortunate in having bad weather on both days, which considerably interfered with the attendance. In fact, the club have a just grievance against Jupiter Pluvius and his watering pot, as on turning over the records for the past ten years I find that out of twenty meetings held during the period only six have been held in fine weather. All the other fixtures have been got off during wet or threatening weather, and threatening weather has probably as had an effect on fair weather sports as any other brand. During the two days of the

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