

## Inter-Provincial.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

### CANTERBURY.

Christchurch, March 31.

Heavy rain, which set in from the South last night, continuing throughout the night, put a complete stop to training work at Riccarton. It has been raining heavily all day, and at the time of writing (7 p.m.) shows no signs of clearing. Orloff has come into the market since Monday for the Great Easter, and was heavily backed in doubles. Pallas is now favourite for the Great Autumn. The best price obtainable to-day about the Orloff-Pallas combination was a hundred to ten. Somerled has been sold to a Featherston owner, and will be sent to his new home later in the week. Somerled will race at the Waipukurau J.C. Easter Meeting in his new owner's name.

Tercelet ran badly in the Marlborough Cup. The horse bruised his foot just before the meeting, and this probably had something to do with the form he showed. Cora Linn shaped well in a gallop last week, and Mr Hobbs paid up for her in the Great Easter. Pallas has been showing good form in his daily tasks. His mile and a-quarter gallop on Saturday morning greatly pleased the few spectators present on the course.

Lady Lillian continues to stand up to her work satisfactorily, and is galloping with great freedom. It is whispered about that Lady Lillian is being specially prepared for the Great Easter. This mare has always been seen at her best in eight furlong races.

Probably one of the fittest horses at Riccarton just now is *Cannie Chiel*. I always hold the opinion that this horse would develop into a stayer, and the fact that he has been taken out of the Great Easter but left in the Great Autumn goes to prove that Cutts is of the same opinion. I hear to-day that General Symons is fit and well, and that his connections fancy the colt's chance in the Great Autumn. He won the Midsummer Handicap all the way, and although the field will be stronger in the Great Autumn, I have much respect for General Symons, who is undoubtedly a smart colt.

The Akaroa Racing Club made a profit of nearly £200 over its recent meeting. With reference to the protest against Nikola in the Maiden Plate, letters were received from the Canterbury Jockey Club stating that there would not be a meeting until next month; that Nikola had won a Ladies' Bracelet under another name at the Christchurch Hunt Club's Meeting, and that the value of the stake had not been advertised, but it had been publicly notified afterwards that the value of the bracelet was £5. Mr Coney said the horse had been leased by Mr Pick, but he thought that gentleman was not the bona fide owner under club rules. He moved that the protest of Mr Wilson against Nikola be sustained, on the ground that Mr Pick had, besides running for the trophy, only leased the horse, and was not, therefore the bona fide owner three months before the race. Mr Bradley seconded the motion, particularly objecting to leased horses being run. The chairman said he had been assured by members of the C.J.C. that if the lease of a horse was duly registered, as had been done in this case, the lessee was considered the bona fide owner for the time being. Mr Harris considered that as the value of the bracelet had not been advertised, Nikola was entitled to the stakes, and he moved in that direction. On the vote being taken the amendment was carried. Mr Wilson then gave notice that he would appeal to the Canterbury Jockey Club against the stewards' decision. It was resolved that neither stakes nor totalisator money should be paid over pending the result of the appeal.

### OTAGO.

Dunedin, April 1.

The Dunedin horses who have continued their engagements in the Great Easter Handicap are all doing well up to date. Pampero continues to stride along pleasingly in his work, and pulls up thoroughly sound. It is rumoured that he was left out of the Great Autumn through an oversight, and the work he was putting in prior to the acceptances lends colour to the report. Vladimir is training on, and improving in his manners on the track.

Red Gauntlet is suffering from a cracked heel, but is registering good work on the track. St. Denis is very fit and well, and strides along with great freedom in his work. Blazer is keeping well, and on the score of weight has been given the chance of his life.

Petrovna is a trifle on the big side, and had a touch of colic a few days back, but is now working all right. Her trainer, however, is inclined to be too lenient with his horses.

Dunedin holds a remarkably strong hand in the Easter Handicap, and there are excellent prospects of the stake coming this way. If Pampero survives his winging-up gallops I have a strong fancy for him, but before saying anything definite about our lot I will wait to see how some of

them shape when they are being slackened out at the end of the week. McGuinness leaves early next week for Riccarton with his team, consisting of Pampero, Vladimir, Red Gauntlet, Crown Imperial, Lady Roslyn, and Lady Babbie.

Turgenieff, the chestnut gelding by Stepniak-Seasbell, who was sold under the hammer at the last New Zealand Cup Meeting for eighty-one guineas, has been purchased by "J. Tristram," the part owner of Pallas and Co.

A. Mathie, who was severely injured whilst riding Partmoor in the Hurdle Race on the last day of the Dunedin Cup Meeting, left the hospital last week, and is progressing favourably towards complete recovery.

Billet Doux was taken up last week after a lengthy spell, and the son of St. Leger has filled out considerably as a result of his holiday. Before resuming work on the track the gelding will be broken into harness and hocked about town to see if that treatment will improve his manners. The chaser Pipi has been taken up, and is now a stable companion of Petrovna.

Evening Wonder has been nominated for the Adelaide Steeplechase run in May next, and it looks as if the gelding was going to make a lengthy stay in Australasia.

Fighting Mac is doing steady work at Oamaru in view of the South Canterbury Meeting.

McComb, who has been fairly successful on the Otago and Southland courses, contemplates returning to Tasmania if he can dispose of his property at Wingatui at a satisfactory figure. McComb is equally at home on the flat and over obstacles, and his services would be in demand wherever he goes. He finds the climate down this way too trying, and his health has not been too robust of late.

Vladimir was priced recently by Mr J. Ellis, and the figure wanted was £750, but Mr Ellis would not go beyond £500 and a winning contingency.

The Auckland horseman, J. Gallagher, was offered and refused the ride on Petrovna in the Great Easter.

Glenelg has been awarded 8st 2lb in the Onkaparinga Cup, one mile and three furlongs. The top of the list is occupied by Footbolt, with 10st 5lb, and next to him comes Flagship, with 10st. Glenelg will not make the journey, and one of his front fetlock joints, which has caused his trainer some anxiety, has been treated to a blister. Evening Wonder has received 11st 12lb in the Onkaparinga Steeplechase, three miles and a-quarter. Colonel Shilinski is top-weight with 13st 8lb, and Arcadia 12st 12lb, Freedom 12st 11lb, Kiota 12st 7lb, Kaimata 12st 3lb, and Mystery 12st. Divide the Wonderland gelding from the top-weight. The Australian-bred Victoria II, who competed at Gore, is amongst the entries for the Hurdles at the C.J.C. Easter Meeting. J. McComb will ride St. Denis in the Easter Handicap, and it is not yet known who will steer the horses in McGuinness' stable who claim engagements in the race. McComb will, however, do what riding he can for the Zeland spots during the meeting. Red Gauntlet is, as most sports know, a son of Lochiel, and what proved conclusively that the conspicuously-marked chestnut has a liberal allowance of Scottish blood coursing in his veins was the fact that on hearing the melodious swirl of a set of bagpipes being lustily played at a picnic recently held at Wingatui, the colt commenced to do a Highland reel in his box with more noise and abandon than has ever been displayed by any kilted dancer tripping the light fantastic toe at festive gatherings.

Canteen is being treated to a spell, and runs out daily in a small paddock, but is boxed, and one night last week when the grey was having one of his hind legs brushed down after his day's freedom, he playfully tapped J. Rae, who was wielding the brush, on the nose, and severely damaged the light-weight's nasal organ, but fortunately the horse was bare-footed, and Rae had a lucky escape from what might have proved a serious accident. As it was the services of a medical man had to be sought before the damaged member could be restored to its former classical contour. The six-year-old gelding, Spider, by Stepniak-Cobweb, and Visionary, by Stepniak-Illusion, are for private sale. The first is guaranteed sound, and the latter is a big, roomy mare, and closely related to Menschikoff.

### WELLINGTON.

Wellington, March 30.

The principal topic in local sporting circles is the wholesale withdrawal from the C.J.C. Easter and Autumn Handicaps of the representatives of the Porirua stable. That the owners had ample justification for scratching the whole of their large team, few judges of racing will gainsay. It is notorious that during the whole of this season, Messrs. Evelt, and Henrys have been unduly harsh in their treatment of Prosser's charges. A few of the numerous instances should suffice, take the prohibitive weight, 11st 3lb allotted by Mr. Evelt to Advance for the Wanganui Cup. Then Ostiak who was badly beaten at the Wellington Cup Meeting with 9st 1lb, was given 9st 6lb in a race of

the same distance at Wanganui. Exmoor was awarded 8st 3lb, and Ghoorka 8st 2lb in the Flying Handicap at same Meeting, and of course declined to accept. Westguard, on the other hand, was thrown in with 8st 11lb, for this mare just previously had carried 9st 6lb, and won the Hawke's Bay Christmas Handicap in 1min 17sec. As the Porirua three-year-old Exmoor, and Ghoorka only received 8 and 9lb respectively from Westguard, the injustice is obvious, especially as Westguard emphasised her Wanganui form a week later by winning the Hawke's Bay Railway Handicap of six furlongs, in 1min 16sec. The Porirua three-year-olds were also badly treated through Oingo 8st 3lb, Windwhistle 8st 3lb, and Field Battery 8st, each of whom won at Wanganui, whilst all the Porirua reps. that started, failed. At Hawke's Bay, where Westguard and Windwhistle scored again. Prosser's charges, although liberally engaged, only secured the Nursery Handicap, a stake of 100 sovs., this by the aid of the Maiden two-year-old, Gold Crown. This colt showed poor form at Manawatu on Boxing day, and ran unplaced in the Wellington Nursery Handicap later on, and notwithstanding that he won at Hawke's Bay, was not handicapped on form in being placed within 7lb of Tortoise (a winner). The harshness was accentuated, when Mr. Henrys raised Gold Crown twenty pounds for the two-year-old Handicap on the second day. Such a jump in weight is most unusual, and the owner had no option but to discontinue the colt's engagements. For the Auckland Summer, and the Dunedin Autumn Meetings, the Porirua stable engaged their horses heavily, and although harshly dealt with, sent Porirua (who was handicapped to concede Waireki 3lb in the Cup, North, he however figured amongst the also started, in the Cup and other events. Subsequently, Mr. Henrys dealt with Porirua, and for his Auckland performances gave him an additional 4lb for the Dunedin Cup, (Siege Gun, the winner at Auckland, was only raised 6lb), Ghoorka on his very best form, was illused at 7st 9lb. Both, in consequence were withdrawn from their Dunedin engagements.

## Echoes of the Week.

Mr. Ewington's meeting at the Y.M.C.A. rooms, on Tuesday, may not be called a huge success. It was evident from the first that the labour agitators present were against free speech, just as they are opposed to free labour, just as they would be opposed to anything and everything that carries with it a suggestion that the "clean and easy job" of the agitator is in danger. Mr. Ewington's quarrel is not with trades unionism, but with tyranny, and it need not surprise us, perhaps, to find that the agitator confounds the one thing with the other. In his mind there is no difference between the two, and he is honest to the extent of admitting that he wants to place the heels of the unionists on the necks of all those other members of the community who are unwilling or unable to join the organisation of labour. Tyranny is tyranny, whether it be exercised by the Tsar, the Grand Turk, or the democratic majority. When the down-trodden Russian subject rebels, all we Britishers admit that his appeal is to the sacred name of Liberty, but when the subject of King Majority asks for his natural rights, he is called a "scab," and a "black-leg."

There was a time when trades unions went by the name of "guilds," and membership was the stamp and seal of efficiency. There was a time also when men dreamed of a golden age in which each should enjoy perfect freedom, with equality before the law; when the Government of the State, as it is the highest, should also be the purest tribunal of justice, favouring none, impeding none in the exercise of his brain and muscle, and seeing that fair play was enjoyed all round. Conciliation and Arbitration are excellent, but the statute under which one party to industrial disputes is constituted a national force to be upheld by the military power of the State, if need be, is a gross error.

It was interesting to note that the socialist element was prominent in the ranks of unionism. It must surely be because Mr. Way and his friends have the trick of fluent speech, which is not nearly so difficult to acquire as the trick of thought. For what is there in common between the practical tradesman, who knows that he must work for all he gets; and the impracticable dreamer, who fancies that the world would be a much better place to-day if he had been consulted at the Creation?

Messrs. Whitehead & Son report that Mr. Sam. Adams has disposed of his interest in the Royal Mail Hotel, Paeroa, to Mr. Crosby, who was proprietor during the days of the boom, and under whose competent management the house acquired a high reputation with the commercial and general public.

Mr Arthur Meyers is proceeding to the Old Country, and in view of his possibly protracted absence, has resigned his position on the directorate of several public companies. Mr. Meyers' absence, for however short a period, will be felt in Auckland. He has entered in what may be called the semi-public life of the City and district with zest, and his vigorous personality has made itself widely felt. He has so far managed to steer clear of politics, local or otherwise, except in so far as these have touched upon his business interests, but the time is coming when the citizens will lay claim to a little more of his time. He may be looked upon as one of the future Mayors, when, petty jealousies and other obstacles having been overcome, the great municipality of the North shall extend from the Waitemata to the Manakau. Meantime, in common with all his other well-wishers, we express a hope that he will enjoy his trip and return with all speed possible.

It is pretty certain that Mr. E. Mitchellson will contest the Auckland Mayoralty, and equally so that he will, if he stand, secure a majority of votes. Mr. Mitchellson's position is unique. A native of Auckland, and one of our most successful business men, he has occupied very nearly the highest position to which it is possible to be elevated by the people of the Colony; that is to say, he has been acting-Prime Minister. His actual position in the Ministry of Sir Harry Atkinson was that of Minister of Public Works, for which both his taste and talents admirably fitted him. Auckland is lucky to have the chance of securing his services in a time of need like the present.

Though there exists a commendable desire to avoid gossip about the late Sir Hector Macdonald in public, it is quite impossible to refrain from speculating about the painful event, and there is an uneasy feeling abroad that the official silence covers an affair that is not without points of resemblance to the Dreyfus case. As the unfortunate officer's friends in Great Britain are clamouring for a public enquiry, it is quite evident that they believe in his innocence of the offence imputed to him whatever it may have been, and publicity would, in any case, be preferable to the present dark uncertainty. Painful as many of the details are certain to be, the dead general's reputation will most likely gain by the revelation.

No one will suppose for a moment that the doctors who advised the Hospital Board to restrict the benefits of the institution to patients in indigent circumstances, desire to exploit the opulent sick and injured, but, at the same time they will not receive the warm support of the public. For a number of years hospitals were popularly supposed to be for the destitute only, and so long as that belief lasted, only those of the poorer class who were void of spirit would consent to be treated in such institutions. And if the pauper reputation is restored, explicitly and not implicitly this time, history would repeat itself. The genius of this Colony will not stand class divisions of the sort suggested by the medical profession.

Poor old Admiralty House! What will be its ultimate fate, one wonders! The law seems to imply that if the Board cannot find any official to occupy it, the subsidy and the site of the old Admiralty House must go back to the Government. The new building, therefore, may for all practical purposes be regarded as a "spec" of the Board's. Whether any profit is to be got out of it remains to be seen.

Te Aroha is, at the present time, thronged with visitors, and presents an exceptionally busy appearance. There is no mistake, the place is gaining in public favour as a health resort, and being easy of access from town, those who cannot afford the time to go to Porirua and other places further afield, find in Te Aroha a beautiful and healthy spot in which to recuperate. One of the most comfortable and convenient places to stay at is the "Hot Springs Hotel," under the proprietorship of Mr. R. L. Somers, a host who is well-known, and deservedly most popular with the travelling public.

The Thames is looking very quiet just now, but nowhere does there exist so much hope, as in the hearts of a mining community. Much is expected from the deep-level sinking, but the delays in the boring operations have been many and prolonged. There is every probability however, of operations being resumed in the very near future, and many hold the opinion that rich gold-bearing reefs will eventually be discovered. In the meantime, the tradespeople and hotelkeepers are making the best of things. On a recent visit there, our representative put up, as of yore, at the Pacific, and found Mrs. Winter, the kindly hostess, still in charge, and the hotel conducted in the very best style.