

C. Jenkins was in great form at the Napier Park Meeting, for in eleven rides the well-known horseman scored eight wins and twice second, a fairly tall performance.

Wairiki is at the head of the quotations for the Easter Handicap, being quoted at 4 to 1 against. Westguard and Heroism are at two points longer, while tens may be obtained about Oingo, Golden Rose and Rosella.

Owners should not forget that general entry night for the approaching Avondale Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting is to-morrow (Friday) evening. Mr H. H. Hayr will take nominations for all events, other than the four which have already closed, up to nine p.m. at the Club's office, in High-street. The programme is a liberal one, and as the meeting is always popular, there should be a very hearty response from owners.

The Auckland Trotting Club is out with the programme for its next meeting, which will take place at Alexandra Park on Saturday, May 2, and Wednesday, May 6. As is usual with the club, the various items are well arranged, the chief event on the first day being the Stewards' Handicap Trot, while on the second day the Handicap Trot and Class Trot carry most money. The full programme is advertised in this issue, from which it will be seen that nominations are due with Mr C. F. Mark on April 17.

On Saturday week the curtain will be rung up on another race meeting at headquarters, and every indication points to the Auckland Racing Club bringing off another pleasant and successful gathering. Although there will not be as many Southern horses competing at the meeting as one could desire, still there are so many good horses in, and around Auckland that the club is able to hold a first-class meeting without any outside assistance at all. Mr Evett has declared his adjustments for the various minor events to be run on the first day, and these, which are published in another column, have come in for close scrutiny without disclosing any serious flaws. Acceptances for these are due to-morrow (Friday) evening, at nine p.m. Next week I hope to be able to review the chances of the various candidates, with the object of sorting out those whose winning prospects appear brightest. It is to be hoped that the scratching pen will be only very lightly used to-morrow night.

The result of the final cricket match played by the English cricketers came as a great surprise. Against the moderate South Australian bowlers the visitors knocked up the huge total of five hundred and fifty-three, Burnup and Taylor both making over three figure scores, while Warner, Fane, Dowson, Bosanquet, Johnston and Stanning all did excellent work. South Australia replied with three hundred and four, Claxton, Hill, and Jennings being the chief contributors. The local men accordingly had to follow on, but undismayed by this, they forced matters in such earnest that when the last wicket fell four hundred and fifty-four runs had been put together. Gehro, who was run out after making an even century, Hack and Hall accounted for the bulk of the runs. With two hundred and six to get, the match looked a fairly good thing for the Britishers still, but they collapsed in the most surprising manner before the bowling of Hay, who took nine wickets for sixty-seven. Dowson and Warner were the only pair to show the least confidence, the innings coming to a speedy close for one hundred and eight. The success of Hay was surprising, as he had not previously done anything special with the ball.

The Southern competitors have now all arrived to compete at the Northern Amateur Swimming Club's Championship Carnival, which takes place in the Auckland Graving Dock on Saturday. They include J. M. Hamilton, of Greymouth (who has been representing New Zealand successfully at the Australasian Championship just concluded), F. Roberts, and A. Smith, of Wellington, L. Penrose, and A. Drake, of Christchurch, and H. Creaghe, Dunedin. All these competitors are fully engaged on Saturday, and all admit that they are in tip-top form. The Northern Swimming Club will entertain the visitors during their stay. The programme at present arranged is as follows:—To-night (Thursday), a theatre party at His Majesty's; on Saturday night, after the events in the Baths, a smoke concert will be held at the Federal Club Rooms; and on Sunday, a fishing excursion and picnic down the harbour.

Mr Lovett was greatly disappointed at the heavy impost dealt out by the handicapper to Hohoro in the Easter Handicap, for which event the Tasman gelding was promptly scratched. Neither was he nominated for any of the minor events at the A.R.C. Meeting. It does seem rather a pity to have a really good horse crushed out of it so that a lot of scrubbers may be given a chance.

Mr J. F. Clark must feel well pleased with the nominations for the Thomson Handicap, which are very numerous. Among the forty-five entries are such good horses as Advance, Orloff, Pallas, St. Denis, Welbeck, Lady Lillian, Ostiak, Madrigal, Motor, Strathavon, and Field Battery. There is fine material for Mr Chadwick to try his hand upon, indeed, in all the events the nominations are exceptionally good, so that patrons are promised plenty of good racing at the meeting, which takes place on April 23 and 25.

The cable brought news during the week of the running of the Grand National Steeplechase, in England. Additional interest attached to the race from the fact that the King's chaser, Ambush II., who proved victorious on a previous occasion, was competing. He was in front at the last fence, when he came to grief, and thus spoiled what would probably have been another win for His Majesty. If this had happened there would have been another great outburst of enthusiasm. The winner turned up in Mr J. S. Morrison's aged bay gelding, Drumcree, who is by Ascetic from Witching Hour. He was followed home by Detail and Manifesto. The latter was the veteran in the race, having prevailed on two former occasions.

A couple of youngsters arrived from Melbourne by the Westralia on Sunday. One is a colt by Bobadil, and the other a filly by Bill of Portland. Mr Ellidson, the owner, will put them in Gainsford's hands to train.

The track work at Ellerslie is beginning to get interesting, trainers sending along their charges with a view of the approaching resumption of hostilities at Easter. On Tuesday, which is always considered a morning for fast work, there were a lot of horses working. Kamo and Roseshield ran a smart six furlong. Lingard and Cannongate were sent a serviceable two rounds, a similar distance being accomplished by Golden Rose. Stepaway brushed fast over six furlongs. Queen's Guard went twice round, finishing at about three-quarter pace. Westguard did easy work, while Rosella hit out at her best for a round of the tan. Bonheur, Te Aroha, and Delania had a half-mile brush, the latter showing in front at the finish. Royal Conqueror accomplished a couple of circuits, going freely. Jewellery, Seatonia, Merry Sout, Thunderer, and Cyrus were among the sprinting brigade. St. Olga was sent a fairly fast mile. Cavaliero and Northumberland did a couple of rounds at a steady pace, finishing strongly. The Easter Handicap favourite, Wairiki was watched with interest as he reeled off seven furlongs at his best, the gallop pleasing the onlookers very much. Mars and The Needle worked together, going a mile and a-half. Val Rosa and Landlock were given a fast six furlongs, the son of Seaton Delaval finishing in front. Cygnet led Bobs and Muskerdale over a half-mile dash. Others out doing various tasks were Tresham, Spalpeen, Formula, Scotty, Nor-West, The Middy, Avalanche, Awahiri, and a number of others.

Mr Robert Cleland reports the following business on the Easter Handicap and Hurdles:—

- 500 to 20 Wairiki and R. Conqueror
 - 500 to 15 Wairiki and Lingard
 - 500 to 25 Wairiki and Inchcape
 - 200 to 8 Wairiki and Tresham
 - 100 to 4 Wairiki and Cavaliero
 - 500 to 21 Strathavon and Inchcape
 - 200 to 6 Strathavon and R. Conqueror
 - 250 to 5 Rosella and R. Conqueror
 - 200 to 5 Rosella and Inchcape
 - 300 to 9 Westguard and R. Conqueror
 - 200 to 6 Westguard and Tresham
 - 500 to 11 Oingo and R. Conqueror
 - 200 to 8 Heroism and Inchcape
 - 400 to 8 Heroism and Lingard
 - 500 to 5 Landlock and Lingard
 - 200 to 4 Landlock and Battleaxe
 - 200 to 6 Golden Rose and Inchcape
- Easter Handicap:—
- 200 to 50 Wairiki
 - 100 to 16 Westguard
 - 100 to 16 Heroism
 - 200 to 20 Oingo
 - 100 to 10 Golden Rose
 - 100 to 10 Rosella

The presence of a great horse will attract a large crowd at Randwick or Flemington, a young "Milroy". The reaking down of Carhire and the retirement of Abecor were serious losses to both the Australian Jockey Club and V.R.C., and the absence of Wakeful at the A.J.C. meeting next month may be a big difference in the takings, but as a set off against the prospect of a great race between Abundance and Great Scot for the St. Leger will fetch people from far and wide. With Abundance in good condition he is a sure draw. Had his condition been perfect last month people would have flocked from the other States to Melbourne to see him win the Australian Cup, and he is a good deal better in the w.f.a. races, but his backwardness could not be bolstered up and consequently both the V.R.C. and the bookmakers suffered.

Mr Webber, in his recently-published book, "The Forests of Northern India," gives an account of a fight he saw between two kyang (wild horses), which "for ferocity and wild fury, surpassed any fight I have seen. Again and again the pair went at one another like tigers, biting, and kicking and mauling, the blood flowing freely, while their yells and roars were terrific. This went on for hours. Sometimes they would wrestle, locked together like prize fighters; sometimes they would chase one another all round the valley bounding across chasms and rocks at a frantic gallop. Once the pursuer, wanting a little rest, took to the sheep paths on the face of the hill. The enemy pressed after him till he could neither go forward nor return back. Watching them with the glass, I saw the brute deliberately jump from the point of a jutting rock into the abyss below. . . . the other stood looking down, but failed to follow. Not an hour afterward they were at it again with renewed fury. I shot one to preserve the peace, making example of the bigger bully who had 'funked' the precipice. The smaller one had shown such pluck in coming to the scratch so often, and in making such an appalling jump, that he deserved forgiveness for his disorderly behaviour."

The nomination of Gold Heels, who so greatly distinguished himself in America last season, was refused for this year's Brooklyn and Suburban Handicaps, and this naturally created a great stir in American Turf circles. According to an exchange, the horse was barred at the instigation of the Jockey Club. He was sold last year to a St. Louis firm, E. J. Arnold and Co., and it was Arnold and Co. who had entered him in the big handicaps. Of late, Arnold and Co. have come out in their true colours. They are a Turf advertising agency, who run a stable of horses in connection with their tipping business, and no doubt as a bait to catch subscribers. They have flooded the country with illustrated circulars of their large racing stable, which includes Gold Heels and others, and have gone into the tipping business on a scale never before attempted. The Jockey Club wishes to discourage any attempts at making a business at racing, and more especially a tipping business, wherefore they advised the Coney Island and Brooklyn Jockey Clubs to decline Gold Heels' entry.

The "Asian" gives the starting price laid by the book makers and the dividend returned by the Totalisator for each winner at the Calcutta meeting. It is shown that the book makers more frequently gave the better odds; the seventy-eight races exhibiting forty occasions when it paid to deal with the ring as against thirty four when the machine was the more profitable medium, whereas in four races the odds were identical.

The supplement to V. 1. 19 of the English "Stud Book" contains the return of brood mares for 1901 and 1902, and a list of foals reared under the order of their sires. During the period mentioned 1599 colts and 1575 fillies were born, while 273 mares died, and 128 were sent abroad. It is stated that on an average eight mares in a thousand produced twins.

THE APPROACHING GREAT TROT-TING MATCH.

FRITZ v. RIBBONWOOD.

As the day approaches on which the great Trotting Match between the Australian champion Fritz and the New Zealand pacer Ribbonwood approaches into effect in the meeting is gradually rising and it looks as if there will be an enormous crowd to witness the contest. The best performance registered by Fritz was when he trotted a mile in 2min 13sec, a first time, at Christchurch, N. Z., on January 2, 1899, which held as the Australasian record for that distance, until beaten recently by Ribbonwood, who covered the mile in 2min 11 2/5 sec. The condition under which the two records were made were, however, very dissimilar, as Fritz trotted on a track which was only half a mile round and was a bit rough, while Ribbonwood's time was put up on a course which is recognised as the best in New Zealand for trotting, and is a five furlong circuit.

Some of Fritz's best performances are 2min 14 4/5 sec for a mile in 1896 at Moonee Valley, Vic., when he easily beat Anterly Mystery and Kalista; 2min 13 2/5 sec for the same distance at Bathurst last year, and 2min 13sec in New Zealand in 1899. His best public display over two miles was when he won the Addington Handicap in New Zealand in 4min 50 1/2 sec. He has made several attempts to lower his own record for the mile, but up to the present has not been successful. The latest try was at Forest Lodge, but owing to the unfavorable nature of the track, it being very dusty, 2min 16 sec was the time recorded before he completed the distance.

Ribbonwood, who is by Wildwood, is black in colour, little more than a pony in height, and very handsome to look at. He was bred by Mr. G. H. M'Hardy, of New Brighton, and was brought up on cows' milk. Long before he was a yearling the children in his neighborhood were in the habit of riding him, and yoking him up in flax harness to a sledge, which he would pull about, showing wonderful patience. Ribbonwood's first appearance before the public was in a Juvenile Stakes at Christchurch, which he won in the easiest possible manner. He was afterwards sold to Mr. Price his present owner for £100.

It looks as though Ribbonwood would start a pronounced favourite, and there will be tons of New Zealand money forthcoming to back him. He has youth on his side, while Fritz is beginning to get towards the red and yellow, and in

addition had a bad passage over. Still the veteran has never met anything fast enough to ext nd him yet, and his owner, Mr Buckland, is confident that his favourite will win the big wager and the Cup. A fresh record should be hoisted by the winner. Personally I think the young pacer will just about get the verdict.

ELLERSLIE GUN CLUB BIG EASTER HANDICAP.

Mr T. V. Frost has declared the following handicaps for the big £50 shoot, which will take place on April 15th:—W. Hazard, 24yds r e; H. C. Miedel, 25; G. R. Wilkinson, 25; A. Lenard, 25; W. Gall, 25; — Smith, 25; H. Abbott, 25; J. A. Jan, 25; G. R. Bloomfield, 26; — Webster, 26; W. Abbott, 26; B. Hannon, 26; J. C. Oldbury, 26; W. Porch, 26; B. Dunlop, 27; — Cashmore, 27; J. Williamson, 27; A. Secombe, 27; J. O. E. Witt, 27; G. Loombe, 27; J. Northcroft, 28; F. Kelly, 29; F. Secombe, 30; H. Rowland, 30; C. H. Chavannes, 31; M. Rosingrave, 31; C. E. Gornett, 32

After the Races.

HAWKE'S BAY J.C. AUTUMN MEETING.

Our Napier correspondent sends the following interesting particulars of the recent Hawke's Bay Meeting, which arrived just too late to appear in our last issue:—

Though the weather was of the best description, and the attendance fair, the Metropolitan Club of the district did not have a good meeting from a financial point of view last Tuesday and Wednesday, as the totalisator investments when compared with a similar venture last season showed a deficiency of £720, and this notwithstanding that on the opening day £500 more passed through the machines than was the case at the Autumn fixture of 1902. Mr Henry's handicapping came in for adverse comments, but his work for all that came through the ordeal all right, for out of the fourteen events for which he lifted the weights, only five first favourites triumphed. In the major number of instances, though the fields were small, interesting contests were witnessed. Harry Piper was as usual au fait with the starter's flag, and the other working members of the club performed their many duties in a highly satisfactory manner.

Only a brace in Ballyneety and Trade-wind lined up for the opening event of the fixture, the Autumn Handicap, and Ballyneety always had the race in his keeping, scoring easily at the finish without any pressure being applied to him.

Another easy victory was that gained by Madrigal in the next contest, the Maiden Hack, in which Mr Lowry's mare was opposed by ten others. It was no race as far as she was concerned from the word go, for when the order for dispersion was given she got to the front, and had no difficulty in maintaining her advantage to the end. Wild Cat was second, and the Gisborne-owned Croupier, a fine big commanding gelding by the St. Leger horse Monaco, third.

Ostiak had the strongest following in the Hawke's Bay Cup, the field consisting of eight runners. Right up to the end of a mile Ostiak was going well in front, a position he had got into when the flag went down, but after that distance had been compassed he commenced to go back, and Ringman, putting in some good work in the run home, soon had the pretensions of Stepnik's son settled, the Castor gelding conquering Ostiak by a good three lengths, A.B.N. a fair third. Battleaxe and Tupara were never upsides with the first three, while Menura, who was a quiet, confidential tip for the affair, made her run too soon, and melted away to nothing in the last two furlongs.

Awahuri, who by the way never looked so well, fairly paralysed the opposing forces in the Hurdles, for he won the race half a mile from home. Scallywag and The Gryphon were the only others who made a decent fight of it, the judge being unable to separate them at the finish, and consequently they divided the second money. Tirea, who formed one of the mob who chased Awahuri home, performed much below his usual form, and Tauhei had the bad luck to get knocked about with a hurdle that Rocket punched hard.

Gold Crown, a Gold Reef—Nymph gelding, that first saw the light at the Te Mahanga breeding establishment, got favoured at the start in the Nursery Handicap, and making every post a winning one, won as he liked, Melodeon, who came very fast in the last furlong, beating Trent for second honours by a long neck. The favourite, Auratus, who had been off his feed since his arrival here, was going well when it was too late, and Rose Madder, a younger full sister to Madrigal, had an abominable passage and a bad start, which destroyed her prospects of success. The latter is a good filly, with a lot of pace, and with a fair go will in the future beat many of those who conquered her last week, or I am a bad judge.