

Waiwera. The former should win. Porirua (if started) should win the Heretaunga Welter. In his absence Lavalette, and Kelburn should fight it out.

The Waiwetu Handicap appears very open. St. Denis, Shrapnel Shell, Shackle, and Tikarawa all seem to have excellent chances. The latter is a useful animal, and with a good rider I would select him to furnish the winner. St. Denis is so well just now that he will take no end of beating, but two stone will probably bring him back to Tikarawa.

The Tinakora Hack Handicap six furlongs, should be a rare betting race. Nell Gwynne, Valima, Matuku, Catherine, Gordon, and Wind are all more than useful. Nell Gwynne is my choice.

The Silverstream Hack Handicap, one mile, should be won by Lavalette. Wind and Betsy will run well.



### HUTT.

Monday.

The outside of the course proper was thrown open to trainers, and the going was in good order, although slow. Prosper sent Ostiak and Porirua, with Jenkins and Price up, for a strong gallop over a mile. Ostiak beat his companion by six lengths in 1min 49sec.

Cannie Chiel and Ballynette ran ten furlongs, the former, with a heavy weight up, finishing in front.

Achilles ran six furlongs in 1min 20sec, Exmoor, who accompanied him, being beaten off.

Windwhistle ran six furlongs in 1min 21sec.

Shrapnell, with Price up, beat Pampero (McComb) over a mile in 1min 49sec. The latter was apparently sore after the gallop.

Pallas and St. Denis ran a useful once round, while Red Gauntlet and General Symons ran six furlongs in 1min 21sec, both finishing together.

Petrovna, Scylla, Shrapnell Shell, Golden Vein, and Ringman were allotted strong work.

Pallas, Scylla, and Ostiak are most in favour in doubles for the Thompsons, and have been freely coupled with Petrovna, Lolah, and Red Gauntlet for the Railway. Prices rule from 100 to 4 to 6.

## Inter-Provincial

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

### CANTERBURY.

Christchurch April 21.

After seeing the races at Riccarton last week, I select the winner of the Thompson Handicap from Scylla, Pampero, and Pallas, with preference for Pallas and Scylla. Either Petrovna or Lolah may win the Railway Handicap. Lavalette reads well in the Heretaunga Handicap, while Nell Gwynne should be hard to beat in the Tinakori Hack Handicap.

Mr Stead has sold his Stepiak colt, King Log, and Hotchkiss colt, Evelyn Wood, to a South African buyer. The horses will be sent to their new home shortly.

A two mile trotting match between Mr A. J. Buckland's St. Simon v. Mr Harris' Victory II. had been arranged to take place to-day, but fell through.

Tercelet did not start at Riccarton last week, but will be given a run in the Hack races at Wellington.

At a sale of racehorses on Wednesday last, Calibre was bought by J. Greig for 54 guineas; Muscovite fell to R. Solomon's bid of 40 guineas; Lady Babbie fetched 20 guineas; Redoubt, 19 guineas; Dun Brown, 25 guineas. The trotting stallion, General Tracy, was passed in at 400 guineas.

Lady Lillian's earnings in the Great Easter and Autumn Handicaps amounted to £1300. The mare was scratched for her Wellington engagements directly the weights appeared. She is a likely starter at the Timaru Meeting.

The champion pacer Ribbonwood gave a fine exhibition of speed at the New Zealand Metropolitan Club's grounds on Saturday, in an exhibition mile. The black son of Wildwood lowered his previous Australasian record to 2min 9sec. The first half-mile was cut out in 1min 4sec. Ribbonwood went like a piece of machinery, and I venture the opinion we have not yet seen him do his best over a mile.

Mr A. Rutherford, M.H.R., bought Victory II. on Saturday from Mr V. Harris, the price paid being £100. The Torpedo-Rivulet colt, Waitarere, ran very disappointingly in the Russley Plate. He is a fine-looking colt, and may do better when he is sharpened up for next season's racing.

Everyone is talking of the success of Sir Geo. Clifford at the Christchurch Autumn Meeting last week. On the first day the Bill of Portland youngster, Treadmill and Quarryman, easily defeated the other two-year-olds in their races. Wind-whistle won the Epsom Welter, while other representatives of the stable, although not actually winning stake money, ran prominently. On the second day, however, horses with the blue and gold chequers got placed in every race in which they were engaged. Quarryman started off by getting second to Machine Gun in the Autumn Nursery; Cannie Chiel filled a similar position in the Great Autumn; Treadmill scored a brilliant win in the Challenge Stakes; Golden Vein got third place in the Templeton Handicap; and Goldenmere finished second in the Ad-dington Plate—truly a grand record.

Both Sir George and his popular trainer, E. Cutts, were heartily congratulated on their success. It was indeed pleasing to see the veteran trainer lead in so many place-getters. In Treadmill he has a brilliant colt to prepare for next year's classic events, and a win in the Derby would be hailed with delight by scores of racegoers.

April 22.

There is practically no betting over the Thompson Railway Handicap double at Wellington. Only one penciller has opened a book—a very small one.

Rosemere broke down badly in the Ad-dington Plate. One of his legs gave way, and Donovan had some difficulty in getting the son of Westmere back to the paddock.

Deerstalker pulled up lame after running in the Maiden Plate. This handsome colt has probably run his last race.

Clytie did not start at the Easter Meeting, at Riccarton. One of his legs gave way just before the meeting opened.

Mr S. Solomon has presented Blazer and Battler to his trainer and Jackson, one condition being stipulated that Blazer is not to be raced again. In the Templeton Handicap, won by Lolah, Blazer gave a glimpse of his old form, and certainly gave one the impression that he would take a lot of beating in the six furlongs races at Wellington.

Treadmill now ranks as the best two-year-old colt of the year, Machine Gun taking second place. Sea Lion is probably next best, but on form that honour rests with Quarryman. Kamo's performances entitle her to be reckoned among the first three, but if Kamo meet Sea Lion and Quarryman, I think the lastnamed would win.

The hurdle racers in the South Island are a very poor lot, and unless some of the present season's flat racers are put to the jumping game Canterbury will have to draw largely on the North Island for the Grand National Meeting. On form displayed lately Roller is easily first among the South Island hurdlers, but the son of Dreadnought is reported to be unsound. He hobs up serenely, however, when required, and wins races against sound animals. Clanburn ran in both hurdle races at the late meeting, but at present he is quite a novice at the game, and will require a lot of schooling before being good enough to win a race in decent company.

### WELLINGTON.

April 19th.

The complete breakdown of Advance was not unexpected by those who witnessed him struggling under his heavy burden in the Wanganui Cup. That struggle undoubtedly had its ill effect upon the sinews formerly affected, and although possibly not noticeable, his brilliant effort in the Jackson Stakes, stretched to the verge of snapping point, the ligaments which at Riccarton finally gave way during the C.J.C. Challenge Stakes. It is devoutly to be hoped that the day is not far distant when a maximum weight will be fixed by our Turi Parliament, thus placing it beyond the power of racing officials to burden our best horses beyond reasonable limits. It is no encouragement to breeders and purchasers of high-priced yearlings, to find our best horses outweighed for the most valuable stakes. The failure of the top-weight division in important events was most marked right through the Easter Meetings. In the C.J.C. Easter Handicap, Orloff had no chance with the leniently treated Lady Lillian; Wairiki failed badly behind Golden Rose, in the contest for the Auckland Easter Handi-

cap; Ringman, top-weight, could only get third to A.B.N., 6st 7lb, for the Feilding Cup. At Waipukurau, Ballyneety, Tradewind, and Menura (the three top-weights in the principal event) were unplaced behind Ia, 7st 5lb. Plaidie's head victory over Volley for the Wairarapa Easter Handicap, was the only instance where the top-weight division prevailed, and had Ringman started with 9st 2lb, I venture the opinion that the top-weight would not have secured even a place. There is ample food for reflection in the above illustrations. Some system of classing racehorses is apparently required, if works well with trotters, why not with gallopers?

The class represented at Feilding, Wairarapa, and Waipukurau, were mostly ex-hacks, and their performances are of but little interest to your readers. Ringman ran honestly at Feilding, but Shrapnel, a son of The Workman, was undoubtedly the best horse running at the meeting. His win in the Makino Handicap, 1 mile, in which he carried 9st 2lb, and ran the distance in 1min 43 1-5sec, demonstrates that he will pay his way in open company. At Wairarapa, Plaidie was the best of a rather poor lot, of which Shrapnel Shell, Tikirawa, and Somerled are just a cut above ordinary leather flappers.

Backers during the Easter holidays had much the worse of what betting was done in Wellington. The local books missed laying the winning double (the two Lady Lillians). Ringman and Motuku, representatives of Mr Paterson's stable, were freely backed for their Feilding engagements.

For C.J.C. events, Orloff, Pampero, Machine Gun, Sea Lion, and Narcissus were heavily supported on the first day; whilst Pallas, Cannie Chiel, Advance, and St. Denis were trusted with most money for the second day's events.

The Wellington handicapper, Mr J. Chadwick, attended the Wairarapa and Feilding Easter Meetings, with the view of estimating the merits of the horses competing there, and his Wellington adjustments are most favourably commented on. The fact of a Wellington handicapper attending these meetings is quite a new departure; formerly the weight adjusters trusted to the press agency for reports of the Easter racing, and framed their adjustments accordingly.

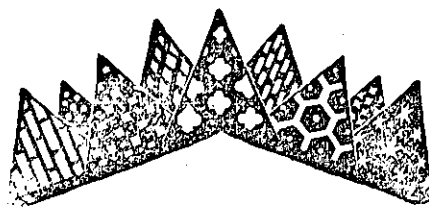
The recent rains have rendered the Hutt Park racecourse capital going. The Canterbury and Dunedin teams have arrived safely, and every available box at the Hutt is tenanted. Some disappointment is felt at the absence of Orloff. He was considered to have an excellent chance in the Thompson Handicap, but possibly the two hard races he ran at the C.J.C. Meeting may have something to do with his failure to continue his Wellington engagements. Lady Lillian's owner, after securing the double Easter and Autumn, decided to allow her a well-earned respite. Vladimir, who is not himself, was returned to Dunedin, consequently the stable will rely on Pampero. Blazer has been pensioned off, and with Welbeck broken down, and Evelyn Wood in the paddock, a number of the South horses are absent.

The owner of Hydrant (who races under the assumed name of Mr Hammon) has been exonerated by the Metropolitan body (C.J.C.), to whom he applied when disqualified together with Hydrant, by the Marlborough R.C. This was quite expected by those who were conversant with the facts. Hydrant will run at the Wellington Meeting this week; he is now trained by Frank Higgot, who has quite a large string under his care.

### HAWKE'S BAY

Napier, April 20.

The Waipukurau Jockey Club's Annual Meeting, with weather of the finest possible description, good fields, and a public holiday, it was only fair to argue that this country club would have a most successful re-union, and the contention proved correct, for a bumper attendance was in evidence, and the totalisator investments registered constitute a record for the club. £5495 passed through the machines as a result of the day's business, which sum is £1006 in excess of that handled at the last meeting. The running path was in the best of order, and the recent improvements that have been effected on the property made the trysting grounds of this popular club wear a business-like and convenient appearance. Mr H. Sainford gave his decisions from



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the judge's box with accuracy and celerity, and it is pleasant to know that this genuine sport is fast recovering from the prolonged infirmity that he has been suffering from for such a long period.

With the exception of Brilliantine getting badly away in the Hack Handicap, no fault could otherwise be found with Mr Hyde's efforts as starter. There is not the slightest doubt that Mr Hyde's starting is improving, and though I have in the past criticised his essays with the flag adversely, I am not above admitting that he is making rapid strides in his profession, and bids fair to develop into a top notcher at the game.

The consistent Shackle won both of his races in a meritorious fashion, which stamps him as a more than fair horse. His owner, Mr F. Armstrong, has made many an attempt to score at Waipukurau, but up to last Monday had not been successful. Mongonui chased Shackle home on both occasions, and though she did her best, was no match at the finish for the Chainlink gelding, who was well handled by F. Davis.

Madrigal got the third berth in the Easter, but did not show out with that brilliancy that was apparent in her efforts at Hastings and Napier Park last month. Probably the hill climbing, which takes place just before rounding the home bend, had the effect of nullifying her prospects.

Ballyneety was a fair third in the Flying, and was galloping well at the finish. His party considered that he had run up to expectations, for he has of late been doing work in view of the Thompson Handicap, which presumably was not the sort of training that would fit him to score in a six furlongs race. He left for Wellington the following morning, which shows that his performance at the meeting was not of a disheartening nature.

Albeit that Mr Lowry's representatives failed in the first two races, Cresot in the Maiden, and Madrigal in the Easter, he came with a strong hand later on, when Ia, who looked fit enough to race for a kingdom, and Rose Madder captured the Waipukurau and Two-Year-Old Handicaps respectively. Both victories were achieved in the most hollow fashion, Ia taking charge after going a mile, Vallance having acted as leader up to this stage.

Gold Dust put in a fast run down the straight, but never had a possible chance of getting on terms with Ia, in fact, it took him all his time to get the second award, for Oracle was at his neck as the line was crossed.

Rose Madder was well suited by the springy nature of the track, and never gave the opposing forces a show to get on speaking terms with her in the Two-year-old event, for she was first out of the slips, and an easy first at the finish. Oasis, who acted as runner-up to Rose Madder, is a compact son of Jet d'Eau and Kie Kie, while the third place-getter, Provost Marshal, is a son of Montdread, by The Officer. He was ridden in a none too artistic fashion, which hampered his exertions, greatly.

Herminius, a Dreadnought gelding bred by Mr W. Rathbone, accounted for the Hack Handicap. Roseshoot, a big full

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