

The success of St. Simon on Trenton or any other Musket blood has been so often demonstrated in Australia that it was bound to be repeated here as soon as opportunity offered (says the Sportsman), and in this connection I notice the victory of Cinders at Phoenix Park on Thursday. Cinders is by Florizel II. out of the famous little Trenton mare, Cinder Ellen, who will long be remembered in Australia, and in India, too, as having won galloway races, and also big events against all sizes. Cinders is her first foal.

The battle between the partisans of the flag and gate method of starting is still raging in the Old Country. A correspondent of the London Sportsman writes of it as follows:—"When the starting-gate was first proposed, it was understood that the primary object was to ensure punctuality, if not precision, and by so doing relieve the general public from the suspense and discomfort inseparable from delays at the post. After patient and costly experience, the great British public—sound judges where practical common sense is involved—told us at Epsom last Tuesday, by the vociferous acclamation with which they greeted the resurrection of the flag, that the starting-gate has, in their opinion, failed to provide either punctuality or precision. The horses themselves have long ago given us their opinion, which they reiterate at half-hour intervals during an afternoon's racing. Trainers have decided for themselves that it is neither practical nor reliable, for not one of them will make use of it as a means of starting private trials. It only, therefore, remains for owners—who have, I presume, some small voice in the matter—to ask the Stewards of the Jockey Club (whose self-denial and loyal devotion to the general welfare of the Turf is, and ever has been, undoubted) whether the time has not arrived for some reconsideration of a subject of such paramount importance?" Epsom is the celebrated convincing ground where the course is not even correctly marked off, so that it seems quite fitting to find the out-of-date flag system still in vogue.

The greatest selling plater in history is the celebrated Hampton. In the early part of his career he was a mere plater, but after falling into the hands of John Nigh'ingall, he developed into the best stayer in England. For the Epsom trainer he won the Great Metropolitan, Goodwood Stakes, Goodwood Cup, Doncaster Cup, Northumberland Plate, and the Epsom Gold Cup. In the race last mentioned he beat the French horse Verneuil, who shortly afterwards won the Ascot Gold Cup and Stakes. Hampton was tried over hurdles, and proved himself an adept at the game. His best race in this branch was for the Grand International Hurdle Race, in which he ran second.

The Grand Prix de Paris last year was worth £10,461 and this year would be quite as much, so that it ranks as the most richly-endowed race in the world for three-year-olds. The winner, Quo Vadis, though he fulfils the conditions of the race by being foaled on French soil, comes of direct British descent, for his sire, Winkfield's Pride, was bred in Ireland, and is by Winkfield—son of Barcaldine—while his dam, Filomena, was bred in England by Lord Calthorpe, and is by Petrarch from Hawthorndale, by Kettledrum from Lady Alice Hawthorn, by Newminster. Filomena, who had been stinted to St. Serf, was purchased by M. E. Blanc, at the Newmarket sales, 1898, for 1,020 guineas, and Winkfield's Pride was also secured in that year by the French sportsman. As there were no less than four hundred and seventy-eight nominations for the race, M. Edmond Blanc scored a veritable triumph when his horses filled the first three places.

Morrel, who years ago was a noted pugilist, later on a cricketer, and finished as a Methodist preacher, died recently at Nottingham at the age of 103. Eighty-three years ago he fought a man named Brown, and was so punished that he was blind for three days.

The latest in the way of starting machines was given trial at St. Louis (America) last month, and worked very well. This is the Carr machine, consisting of series of padded sections which are worked on hinges and have parallel arms, flank high separating each horse from its neighbour. These, as well as the main machine, in the rear of each horse are heavily padded, so that the animal cannot injure itself. In these padded sections a horse cannot kick or be kicked, nor can it swerve on any horse as under the present system in use. A horse in the Carr gate cannot back nor get "hung" in any webbing, because the webbing in front of each horse is only about four feet wide, breast high, perfectly taut and parted in the middle at the electric signal, each part instantly disappearing into the pockets at the ends of each section ring. There is absolutely nothing to "hang" on, the single strip of webbing being instantly drawn out of the way.

In the year of Altissidora's St. Leger seventeen animals came out to run. After eight false starts the temptation to gamble became irresistible, and one adventurous speculator laid 100 to 20 against the ninth start being successful. He won his money, and converted into a "double" by laying 100 to 30 against the tenth attempt. Yet a certain section of the press are still howling against the use of the starting gate. We ought to let them have Mr O'Connor for a few months and he might be able to convince the sceptics.

## Inter-Provincial.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

### CANTERBURY.

Christchurch, June 17.

Defiance, a National Hurdle Race winner, was out with the hounds last week. Defiance won a hurdle race at Winslow, a week or two ago, after which he was bought by Mr H. Brown, owner of Roller.

I notice several newspaper writers have stated that Seaton Delaval is without a representative in this year's New Zealand Cup. What about Lavalette? Is he not a son of Seaton Delaval. Leonore is also a daughter of Seaton Delaval.

Goldenmere and Dirk each failed to get a place in their races at the Oamaru Meeting. The former was made favourite for the Waitaki Handicap, won by Goldspur, while Dirk received most of the public money on the first race of the meeting.

I notice that several papers have lately given Whirlwind as a dam of Seylla, but the mare's dam is Whirlpool.

Among the hunters out with the Canterbury hounds last week were Harkaway, Dugald, Agitator, Te Kooti, Mainstay, and Dun Brown.

South Canterbury promises to be strongly represented in the Hunters' Hurdle Races at the National Meeting. There are, I believe more horses out qualifying for jumping events at the National Meeting this year than in any previous year. Among those qualifying are some really good horses that have won races on the flat.

Rowlock is doing good jumping work at Riccarton. Rowlock was always a capable jumper.

Sultana was sent a couple of rounds the other morning over the hurdles in front of the stand and the fences at the back of the course. This horse is doing well.

Slow Tom is doing steady work, with a spin over hurdles now and again, and he jumps well.

Social Pest is going along in his work nicely, but so far he has not been pushed. Zealous was given a spin over hurdles during the week, and shaped well for a novice. Social Pest accompanied the Nelson mare, who should make a good racer.

Catherine Gordon is another hurdle race novice. This mare jumped half-a-dozen hurdles during a gallop last Friday, and got through her task fairly well.

Benzoin, who is doing easy pacing, is entered for the sprint events at the Wellington Winter Meeting. Windwhistle, Bombardo, Slow Tom, Social Pest, Dirk, Goldenmere, Sultana, and Pipi make up entries from Canterbury at the same meeting.

### HAWKE'S BAY.

Napier, June 16.

At the Park course this morning Oracle, Inspan, and Talune had a trial over a mile and three-quarters over the hurdles, Inspan pulling off after going a short distance. Talune, when leading Oracle by ten lengths up to the last jump, fell. Oracle, who finished by himself, was bleeding pretty freely from the nose.

Kohupapa and Opal had a six furlongs go, the former having the best of it. Urutonga (full sister to Boreas), Colletos, the Captain Webb—Lady Florin gelding, and First Foot traversed the same distance, Urutonga finishing in front on sufferance, with First Foot second.

Great Shot and Eclair did long half pace work. Frost did the circuit three times at half-pace. Pilmer's aspirant for jumping honors in the hunter events went three times round, and Bushwacker and Robin Adair did steady work.

As the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club races are drawing near, the number of touts and onlookers each morning is becoming

more numerous. This being a jumping morning, saw quite a large number out. The tracks and course proper have never looked so well at this time of the year, and if the rain keeps off it will be very fast going for Wednesday week.

"Jerry" Coghlan is busy with the steeplechase fences, which he is building in his usual first-class style. This year the water jump in front of the stand will be done away with, and replaced by a good substantial brush fence.

Jim Munn was the first out this morning with Kahuwai, and a very handsome colt by Gold Reef from a full sister to Brooklet and The Brook. This pair on the plough gallop were restricted to a couple of rounds at a good strong half-pace. Kahuwai is improving very fast.

Quira, in the same stable, did some serviceable work three times round the plough finishing the last half-mile fast.

Ontario and a mare out of Mystery galloped three furlongs, and finished together.

White Squall, and a half-brother to Baldie, spurred half-a-mile. White Squall seemed to have all the best of it at the finish.

Waireka (Tate) and Sloightear (Woolley) were given a mile on the grass gallop over three fences. They both jumped well, and finished together. The latter mare has got over a slight injury she received to her knee the other day.

Defoe, Ogle, and Evening were tried together over one circuit of the plough. Defoe, on the outside, had all the best of a good gallop, finishing strong, with Evening beaten off.

A couple of Gooseman's two-year-olds, Tattle (Mahaki—Whisper filly) and Preadland (Wonderland—Mystery colt) spurred three furlongs, finishing together.

Roseshoot alone on the outside of the course proper, galloped once round with a light weight up, and finished in a very determined style. This horse is looking and going very well.

Melodeon, Cobra, and Kowhete were restricted to slow pacing three times round, as was The Gryphon, Garnet, Hokowhatu, Starshoot, and Modesty.

Eland, on the course proper, galloped four furlongs in fine style, running it in good time. Minerva and A.B.N. in company jumped off once round with two light-weights up. The first-named won at the finish by about a length, both all out. Tradewind (Watt) alone jumped twice round the grass gallop over six hurdles, running a good sound pace all the way, and jumping faultlessly.

Eucharist (Peterson), Counterbine (Mr Marshall), and Cronje (Hutchison) in company were sent out over the schooling fences. This was the most interesting go of the morning. Eucharist only went once round, but was pulling very hard, and had a lot the best of the go. Counterbine went on with Cronje the next round, and then Cronje went on alone for the third round. All three horses fenced very well.

Meteor, in charge of Quinton, arrived from Auckland by the Tarawera last night. The gelding left for Hastings this afternoon.

### WELLINGTON.

June 15.

Satisfactory nominations have been received for the W.R.C. Winter Steeplechase Meeting, the chasers include Gobo, Hadyn, Nor'West, Social Pest, Scallywag, Frost, and Straybird, whilst Battleaxe, Waiwera, Haydn, Meteor, Merryboy, Social Pest, and lesser lights should provide good contests at Hutt Park on the 16th and 17th of July next. Weights are due on July 6th.

The nominations for Wellington are a marked contrast to those received by the Hawke's Bay and Wanganui Jockey Clubs, at one time considered the greatest steeplechasing centres in the Colony; the figures being—Wellington, for thir-

## What is it Good For?

IT IS GOOD

for a drink in the first place—A morning bracer—A tonic that makes the day's work easier. It is more, it is a medicine. It works on the Kidneys, Bowels and Stomach. It goes straight to the places that need help.

## WOLFE'S SCHNAPPS

teen handicap events, 332 nominations; Wanganui, for thirteen handicaps, 295 nominations; Hawke's Bay, for thirteen handicaps, 205 nominations.

Mr D. Thomson has placed his steeplechaser Scallywag in the hands of H. Fletcher to train for his engagements. The horse will undergo his preparation on the Porirua beach, where Black Dust, The Guard, Gobo, and other good ones have been trained.

Ballarat, the Otaki double winner, has been taken home by her owner from W. Davis, and will be wintered at Maukauri Awatu.

Kowhai has been in easy work since Wanganui, and has freshened up considerably. A. McConnon will, during the absence of Thomas in South Africa, ride for Davis' stable.

Telford Bros. have removed from the Hutt to Hawera. Stepson, the Stepniak—Britomarte colt remains in their charge. As they are careful men, they will no doubt increase their string ere long.

The prospects of the Hawke's Bay Meeting do not look over bright. From one cause and another the field for the principal events will be small. Pipi will be a certain starter, and with an attenuated field will be hard to beat. Battleaxe and Tauhai are fancied here for the hurdle event.

Mr A. Rore, the owner of the Merry England mare Hinekoa, intends giving her a trial over hurdles. This mare has size, and her victory at Nelson and Marlborough are evidence that she can both gallop fast and carry weight. She should hold her own in any company over the sticks.

The descendants of that genuine mare Dudu were in evidence of late. Shrapnel Shell secured a double win at Otaki, whilst his half-brother (by Lakeshill) Kharki, after running prominently for the greater part of the Hurdle race on the first day, had an easy win on the second day. A visitor to the meeting informs me that Kharki will be heard of in better company later on.

The owner of Hydrant accompanied by his solicitor, attended the Monthly Committee Meeting of the C.J.C., and asked that the disqualification of the horse be re-considered. The application was however refused, and an appeal to the Conference is contemplated.

### OTAGO.

June 17.

With the conclusion of the Annual Winter Meeting held by the North Otago Jockey Club last week, the curtain was rung down on racing this season as far as the South Island is concerned, as with the exception of one or two hunt club meetings our field glasses can be put in lavender until the saddling up bell rings at Riccarton in August next. Last week's gathering at the White City was not the least enjoyable attended by your Otago correspondent during the just dead season, and with the exception of the Riverton and Winton Meetings he has attended every meeting of note held between Riccarton and Invercargill during the season.

The Riverton and Winton Meetings clash with the principal meetings held at Riccarton, but one is, however, in duty bound to attend the New Zealand Cup Autumn and National fixtures, to witness the form displayed by the cracks of the year who may be found bearing silk at Riccarton, and also to make the acquaintance of the juvenile aristocrats who make their debut in the Welcome Stakes and other races for youngsters.

Some very interesting racing was witnessed at Oamaru, and the totalisator receipts for the meeting compared favourably with previous totals. Red Gauntlet, who raced with more determi-

Ask for

# Wolfe's Schnapps

And Take Nothing Else.

PALMER TYRES.