

nation than I have ever previously seen him display, won a race each day, and had he not been badly left in the Waitaki he would have undoubtedly been returned the winner instead of being beaten on a neck by Gold Spur. The Lochiel colt was protested against on the grounds of alleged inconsistent running after he won the Flying Handicap on the first day, but those who are capable of judging a race quite concurred with the decision of the Stewards in dismissing the protest.

Fighting Mac, the aged gelding by Vanguard, won the principal race on the first day, after a good race with Antigone, St. Elma, and Red Gauntlet.

Sir G. Clifford had two representatives running at the meeting, in Dirk and Goldenmere. Sir George was present on the second day of the meeting, but, although Goldenmere was sent out favourite for the Waitaki Handicap, his colours failed to catch the judge's eye in any of the races.

Despite the fact that all the handicaps at the recent Oamaru Meeting were compiled on the welter weight scale, one rider put up 20lb overweight in one of the races.

H. Emerson takes Beauclere in hand again this week, and the Fiske gelding Bellini also goes into Emerson's stable.

One of the races run at the Oamaru Meeting last week appeared to be honestly contested by the field engaged in it but it is said that those who knew most were going for the gloves on one, as it was understood that the balance of the field would not seriously menace the favourite ones. Unfortunately, the selected horse was running out of his distance, and fading away to nothing failed to find a place at the finish. A few similar experiences should teach owners to embroider on their colours the legend, "honesty is the best policy."

Sir Geo. Clifford, by racing some of his horses at Timaru, Ashburton, and Oamaru during the just closed season, has set an example which some of the other leading owners of the South Island would do well to imitate.

It is said that the reason that one of the horses engaged in the second day's Selling Race at Oamaru did not start was because a flattering offer for the horse was made to the owner, and the latter becoming afraid of losing his steed, at once withdrew him from the race, which was all the pretending purchaser wanted. Gold Spur, through being beaten by a neck in the Flying Handicap at Oamaru last week by Red Gauntlet, just missed landing the double Flying and Waitaki Handicap three times. In 1900 the Rubezahl gelding scored his first double, and repeated the dual win last season, and just missed landing it again last week. Prior to winning the C.J.C. Great Easter in 1897, Gold Spur ran second to Telemeter in the Flying at Oamaru, and afterwards won his first Waitaki Handicap with 9st 2lb on his back.

W. Brown was a few years back considered one of the smartest horsemen in the Colony in getting a horse off the mark, and the manner in which he handled his mounts at Oamaru last week showed he still possesses the knack of stealing a march on his opponents at the fall of the flag.

At Oamaru last week a well-known trainer was seriously thinking of investing a sovereign on Phactonitis in the



C. W. Fuller, Photo.

Mr. CHEVANNES, the crack Wanganui shot, at the Ellerslie Gun Club Meeting.

Winter Handicap, but meeting the jockey who rode the horse in one of his races at the recent Dunedin Meeting, asked his opinion, and was informed that the horse had not a thousand to one chance in the race. When the dividend of £18 12s was hoisted, there was one exceedingly angry person on the racecourse, who vowed he'd be so and so'ed, and such and such'ed before he asks another jockey's opinion about a horse.

The Stewards of the Oamaru Jockey Club at last week's meeting occupied alternately a crow's nest at the post of the straight, and although it is impossible to state how far their presence influenced the racing, it must be stated that the sport during the two days bore a very healthy appearance.

The Forbury Park Racing Club have decided that the terms for a lease of the Park asked by the Forbury Park Coy. are not such as they would care to accept, and the land co. have accepted the Club's offer at a rental of £50 per racing day for next season. The terms were £300 for the first year, £450 for the next, and £550 for the third year. In addition the land Co. wished to reserve the right of letting the inside of Park for football, coursing, etc.

Canteen was put into active commission at the latter end of last week, and after his spell is in a fine healthy condition to be prepared for next season's campaign. All the Dunedin owned horses who claim engagements in the New Zealand Cup are now in work.

THE BETTING MARKET.

Messrs Barnett and Grant report the following business on

THE NEW ZEALAND CUP

- 800 to 47 Wairiki
- 500 to 20 Black Reynard
- 500 to 15 Mars
- 300 to 12 Cannie Chiel
- 300 to 9 Sea Lion
- 200 to 12 Lady Lillian
- 200 to 10 Kelburne
- 200 to 10 Quarryman
- 200 to 2 Secret Society
- 150 to 6 Pampero

Mr Robert Cleland reports the following business on the

NEW ZEALAND CUP

- 500 to 15 Cure
- 500 to 7½ Bensoin
- 200 to 14 Wairiki
- 500 to 30 Shrapnel
- 100 to 4 Canteen
- 500 to 5 Bulawayo

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In reply to "Martin," the date of Fred Archer's death was November 8, 1886. The famous horseman had been wasting to ride at a nearly impossible weight, and it broke his health down so much as to affect his reason. In a fit of temporary insanity he ended his own life.

Echoes of the Week.

(By "Ithuriel.")

The citizens' ball in honour of the Governor and Lady Ranfurly on Tuesday night was a huge success. It was representative of many classes, and not inclusive of any, ior, contrary to expectations, ie did not affect the attendance at His Majesty's Theatre, where all parts of the auditorium were again crowded to witness the adventures of the two wicked family men who pretend to be Masons. There were some lovely dresses at the ball, and generally the aims of the people who attend such functions were attained. Had the gathering been more in the nature of a popular compliment to vice-royalty, and less a vehicle for the exhibition of human vanity, the result, possibly, would have been the same. So that there is no occasion for tears.

The attempt to enforce an old Philadelphia law of 1794 raises some interesting questions. This curious act, which was supposed to have become obsolete, not only forbids any husband to kiss his wife, and any mother to kiss her child on the Sabbath day or day of fasting, but no beast of burden, man servant or maid servant is to be called upon to do any manner of labour on the Sabbath. No one is permitted to travel, cook victuals, shave, or "otherwise defile" the Sabbath day. No one on that day may run or walk in his garden, or indulge in worldly conversation on the public roads. It is a curious comment on this old act that, according to the police report, there are now in Philadelphia 1200 resorts in which liquor is sold on Sunday, and thirty-four dancing resorts open on that day, and doing a flourishing business. O! the good old times!

As a general rule actors are not wanting in courage, but the pluck of the mummer that brought the house upstanding at an American town some days ago was but one remove from rashness. He advanced hurriedly to the footlights and assured the audience that the performance would have to terminate abruptly as a wire had arrived that a United States war vessel had gone down with all hands. As many of the people in front of him were connected with the sea or had relatives afloat, there was natural consternation. At last a bald man behind the orchestral bassoon asked what vessel it was. There were tears in his voice, as he had a couple of sons on the wave. When the answer came, "The sub-marine Holland," there was a moment's pause, and then a noise like that of many horses running to battle as the crowd surged towards the stage. Of course the farceur was some blocks away before the mob got over the footlights, but had he been in a Western town some distance from the Rockies he'd have been punctuated with bullets before reaching the wings.



C. W. Fuller, Photo.

At the Big Pigeon Match. Watching one of the crack performers.