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REMINDEES TO OWNERS.

Entries for some of the big future events of the Wellington Racing Club close with Mr J. F. Clark, the secretary, on Tuesday, June 30, at 10 p.m. These are the Wellington Stakes, of 400 sovs to be run at the Summer Meeting of 1905; the North Island Challenge Stakes, of 400 sovs to be decided at the Autumn Meeting 1905; the New Zealand St. Leger Stakes, of 400 sovs. to be run at the Autumn Meeting, 1906.

Handicaps for the first day's events of the Wellington Racing Club will be declared by Mr Chadwick on Monday, July 6, Acceptances and entries for the Trial Plate must be made to Mr J. F. Clark, the secretary, on or before Monday, July 13. The Meeting takes place on July 16 and 18.

Handicaps for the first day of the Gisborne R.O Winter Meeting will be declared on June 26. Acceptances must be made to Mr M. G. Naasmith by July 3. The fixture will come off on July 9 and 10.

RACING CALENDAR

NEW ZEALAND.

FIXTURES

June 24 and 25—Hawke's Bay J.C. Winter
July 9 and 10—Gisborne R.C
July 16 and 18—Wellington R.C. Winter
Nov. 7—C.J.C. Metropolitan. New Zealand Cup

NOMINATIONS.

July 13—Wellington R.C. (Trial Plate).

WEIGHTS DECLARED.

June 26—Gisborne R.C.
July 6—Wellington R.C. (First Day's events).

ACCEPTANCES.

June 19—Hawke's Bay J.C. Winter
July 3—Gisborne R.C.
July 13—Wellington R.C. (First Day's events)

Sporting and Dramatic REVIEW

AND
LICENSED VICTUALLERS' GAZETTE

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE WEEKLY STANDARD

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1903

THE SIMILARITY OF RACING COLORS

It is greatly to be desired that during the interval which will now elapse before racing is resumed, something may be done to re-arrange the colors which as at present worn are little short of farcical. It must be taken for granted that the chief, if not the only, reason why colors are worn at all by jockeys is to enable them to be easily recognisable by the judge, the stewards, and the general public. There is no possible fault to be found with the custom, certainly a picturesque one, always provided that colors are so arranged as to make it an easy matter to differentiate the various competitors in a race. Is this always done, however? It would unfortunately appear not to be the case. Take for instance the last race meeting held at Ellerslie. There we find Mr J. George's colours described as all black and majenta sash, Mr R. Hynes' as black jacket, maroon sash and cap, Mr M. Hogan's as black jacket red sash, and black cap. Now, after a single shower of rain has wetted the silk it is practically an impossibility to distinguish maroon from majenta or red. One might do it if they were allowed to sit down and consider the matter, but to pick them out when the wearers are racing past at full speed is indeed another matter altogether. Then again there is Mr F. Watson's blue jacket and amber cap, and Mr J. Donald's blue jacket and yellow cap. Quite a number of horses were running with jockeys up whose colours were exactly similar with the exception of the cap. This should not be allowed, for in the extremely probable contingency of the rider's cap coming off during a race there would be simply nothing left for the judge to tell them by. There is plenty for this official to do in watching a close finish without making his task harder by allowing such very fine distinctions of colours to be worn by the competing horsemen.

This matter has been exercising the minds of racegoers on the other side of the Tasman Sea, and that progressive body, the Australian Jockey Club, has determined to grapple with the difficulty, and has adopted a recommendation by a sub-committee appointed for the purpose. This states that in future all caps must be of one colour; all stars, hoops, sashes, braces, diamonds, and armbands must be at least four inches wide; facings, cuffs, collars, pipings, seams, braids, and vertical halves will not be allowed; fifteen colours only will be allowed to be used, viz., white, black, brown, dark blue, pale blue, green, grey, tartan, maroon, red, pink, orange, yellow, purple, and lilac; the nomenclature of these fifteen sample colours must be adopted in all jackets and caps; that letters be sent to all owners interested to bring them within these regulations, and the sub-committee be allowed to continue sitting to adjust any discrepancies that may arise, and to deal with all applications for new colours; that any registered owners of colours now on the list, where they do not conflict with these regulations, except in the name of the shade of colour, may retain the same, but the nomenclature laid down must be adhered to.

There can be no shadow of doubt that racing, colours throughout New Zealand are in urgent need of alteration or regulation, and some such scheme as that now being tried by the governing body in New South Wales might well be adopted. Of the colours mentioned two might well be eliminated, namely, maroon and orange, for if the bands are at all narrow they strongly resemble red and yellow. It is a subject well worth the attention of the Racing Conference, instead of being a help to the racegoer, in many instances, only serves to make confusion worse confounded.

Sporting Topics

On the Thursday of the Newmarket Spring Meeting the race for the Peel Handicap was run twice owing to the fact that on the first occasion it had been run over the wrong distance, and the judge was fined £20 for going to the wrong winning post.

The Carbine horse Lord Carbine dropped dead on April 30 while exercising at Lambourn. Lord Carbine was four years old, and last season won four of the races in which he took part, his successes including the Lewes Handicap and the Grand Prix d'Ostende.

There are sixteen youngsters at the Cambria Park Stud Farm, some of them exceedingly promising looking young thoroughbreds. There are also thirty-one mares in foal at the same farm.

Mr Joseph Chadwick, the well-known sporting scribe, has been appointed handicapper for the Geraldine Racing Club. No doubt the good work done by him for the Wellington Racing Club has impressed the committee of the Geraldine Club.

The Auckland Cup winner, Siege Gun, appears among the list of entries for the Melbourne Cup. The son of Hotchkiss and Frailty has been nominated by Mr. F. McGrath, who has also entered the Pilgrim's Progress mare Felicitous.

I notice among the nominations for the rich Maribyrnong Plate, which is run at the Spring Meeting of the V.R.C., Mr John Marshall's newly acquired brown filly by Haut Br on from Necklet appears. Aucklanders would be very pleased to see the popular "all black" carried to victory in the big five furlongs race.

The Sultan of Johore has three nominations in the Maribyrnong Plate, 1903, the Ascot Vale Stakes, V.R.C. Derby, 1904, and St. Leger, 1905. They are a bay colt by Carlyon—Brown Alice, a bay colt by Thunderbolt—Tuberosa, and a bay gelding by The Admiral—Glee. His only nomination in the Melbourne Cup is the four-year-old bay gelding Rapid Pilgrim, by Pilgrim's Progress—Lady Bevys.

As was generally expected would be the case, the South Auckland Racing Club has approved of the recommendations re appointing a sole handicapper for the country clubs. The other suggestions of the Conference of Country Clubs in the Auckland Province have also been adopted. The Whatawhata Club has also approved of the various recommendations, and it seems almost certain that the other clubs interested will follow suit. There can be no doubt whatever that one man as handicapper, who could attend the meetings, would give far more satisfaction than the present method, and I feel sure that before long this very sensible suggestion by the Conference will be acted upon.

Rock Sand, who has won the two great classic events, Two Thousand Guineas and Derby, in England this season, has had a particularly brilliant career. As a two-year-old, out of seven starts he only once suffered defeat, when he ran third to Flotsam and Mead in the Middle Park Plate. Auckland is fortunate in the possession of a horse bred very much like this year's Derby winner. The Cambria Park Stud Company's sire Cyrenian to a very large extent possesses the same blood, as he is by St. Simon out of Daisy Chain by Springfield. Rock Sand is by Sainfoin by Springfield, out of Roquebrune by St. Simon. Rock Sand is simply saturated with Stockwell blood as Sainfoin's sire is a grandson, and his dam a granddaughter, while Roquebrune's sire, St. Simon, is out of St. Angela by a half-brother to Stockwell, and Roquebrune's granddam was a Stockwell mare. Cyrenian has almost exactly similar blood in his veins, so that this handsome young stallion is bred on the most successful lines in England today.

Among the members of the London Stock Exchange there must be some more than useful exponents of the "heel and toe" game. Five miles and a-half an hour for fifty-two miles is "jolly good" walking! The Stock Exchange walk to Brighton produced ninety-two competitors. They started soon after six o'clock in the morning, and the first to arrive at his destination was Mr E. Broad, whose time was a second over nine hours and a-half. Six others followed him within twenty minutes. It is said that over £10,000 changed hands over the event. Having lived for some years at Brighton, I know the route very well, and can appreciate the excellent performance recorded by Mr Broad. There are some pretty stiff pinches in the South Downs to be negotiated before the famous watering place is reached.