

The July Steeplechase Handicap had five starters, Nor-west being withdrawn. Sultana fell at the first fence, and Scallywag slipped into the sod wall and came down, this leaving Gryphon, Straybird and Pipi racing in that order. The former compounded half a mile from home, and Straybird won easily with Pipi some distance away.

The Winter Oats Handicap brought out a field of fourteen, Exmoo and St. Olga being about equal favourites. The latter, however, evidently felt the effects of her previous exertions, and for the first time out of four starts failed to gain a place. Although she led Sanfoin and Exmoor for the first three furlongs, she just failed to stay the race out. Tupara joined Exmoor and Sanfoin at the turn, but the Porirua colt won nicely by half a length.

The Final Hurdle Race saw ten horses weigh out. Slow Tom and Rags were well backed, the latter losing his rider at the first hurdle, but continued the race and finished in front of the winner. Kharki and Smithy made the pace, Slow Tom and Boko running. Smithy retired after a mile and a quarter, and Slow Tom compounded shortly afterwards, Boko then joined Kharki, and coming on won by four lengths. Mourner, who was in a good position throughout the race, was three lengths off, Waiwera a bad fourth.

The Second Hack and Hunters' Steeplechase had half-a-dozen starters. Kaloo, Kaitere and King Lear were most prominent. Kaitere came strongly after reaching the straight and won nicely.

The Thorndon Hack Handicap saw another large field, fifteen facing the starter, Matuku and Repulse being most fancied. Matuku was soon in command, and stalling off a determined challenge by Repulse, won by a length. This was Matuku's first appearance at the meeting, and the owner and his friends supported the filly loyally, and a number of Wellington residents went home happy.

INTER-PROVINCIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

CANTERBURY.

Christchurch, July 22.

The hurdle racer, Violin, from Invercargill, arrives at Riccarton on Friday. Slow Tom and Pipi came back from Wellington on Sunday. The former's win in the Wellington Hurdle Race was quite unexpected, except by the horse's immediate connections, who, I hear, scored a good win. Mr Taggart gave 200 hundred guineas for Slow Tom late in the autumn. He has not had to wait long to regain the purchase money.

A rumour was in circulation in Christchurch to the effect that all was not right with the New Zealand Cup favourite, Wairiki. News of this kind is not long going the rounds of the town. A few of those who had backed the Auckland horse were anxious to lay off, but late in the evening the son of Sout was a firm favourite at 8 to 1. On inquiry to-day I learned that no better price than this could be got about him. With Orloff booked for Australia, the price of the Yaldhurst horse has lengthened to a hundred to five. Lady Lillian is quoted at 10 to 1.

The biggest surprise of the Wellington meeting to Riccartonites was the downfall of Sultana in the Steeplechase. Prior to leaving for Wellington Sultana had been jumping splendidly, and as he possesses pace his chance of winning was considered to be an excellent one. The only reason I can advance for Sultana's non-success is that he was given too much stiff jumping before going North, and that he found the going a little too heavy for his liking.

Ashburton has sent four hurdle racers to Riccarton to undergo their preparation for the Grand National Meeting. The quartette belong to Mr S. Brown, their names being Hurricane, Defiance, Roller, and Fairy Rose, Victor II., also owned by Mr Brown, is likely to reach Riccarton some time next week.

Golden Rose was scratched for the New Zealand Cup at 1.30 p.m. on Friday last. Sans Peur was withdrawn from the same race at 9.30 a.m. to-day. Battleaxe, Tupara, Straybird, Tepapa, Windwhistle, Goldspur, Khaki, and Lee Enfield arrived at Riccarton to-day. Now that Battleaxe has arrived at headquarters there is likely to be a run on him for the National Hurdles.

Handicaps for the Grand National Steeplechase, Hurdle Race, and Winter Cup have been freely criticised. In the Steeplechase Haydn heads the list, and in his present form he is likely to be favourite. Although the field is a big one, it

cannot be said to be a very formidable one. Of the first half-dozen I certainly prefer the chances of the top-weight, while Awahuri, if the going is good, may improve on his Auckland form, but I do not think he will beat Haydn. I have a fancy for Hurricane, and if he goes to the post I feel positive he will be one of the hardest to beat. Sultana, despite his failures at Wellington, will have many supporters, as also will old Straybird. The three I like best are Haydn, Hurricane, and Sultana, while in the Hurdle Race Battleaxe's name stands out prominently, and whatever beats him will, I think, win. Haydn and Awahuri are likely to give the top-weight most trouble.

The Winter Cup will be a hard race to pick. A likely half-dozen are Seylla, Durable, Shrapnel Shell, Cora Linn, Exmoor and Pampero.

WELLINGTON.

July 20.

The Wellington R.C. official totalisator Winter Meeting, shows an increase of £39 compared with last year.

turnover, £18,196 for two days of the The following horses went North per Tarawera to-day:—Nor-west, The Pullack, Marine and Hautapu.

The trainer of Nor-west has at present no intention of returning South for the Grand National Meeting.

Sanfoin, who ran prominently at the Wellington Meeting, has changed hands. His owner, Mr Colvin, a popular M.H.R., accepted a tempting offer to-day. The name of the purchaser has not transpired. Sanfoin proceeds South.

Mr Henrys' C.J.C. Grand National weights are now being discussed. The similarity of the weights allotted to a number of horses in the jumping events, with Mr Chadwick's Wellington Handicaps, is very marked. In the Steeplechase, Haydn, Gobo, Scallywag, Jack o' Lantern, The Gryphon and Pipi have had their weights increased a pound or two, while Nor-west, the winner, has gone up ten pounds. Only for the fact that Social Pest has had six pounds taken off the handicap is simply a repetition of the Wellington weights on a slightly higher scale. Haydn, who was my pick for Wellington, with one pound additional weight, must again be my selection with Nor-west gone North, and I would take Straybird and Scallywag as the pair most likely to trouble the top-weight. Old Umslopogaas, should he stand his work, may have to be reckoned with at 9st 7lb.

The Great Northern Hurdle Handicap likewise bears a strong resemblance to the Wellington Winter Hurdle Handicap. Battleaxe has one pound less, Social Pest and Haydn one pound more. Most of the others have had a pound taken off, except the winner, Slow Tom, who is raised thirteen pounds. As I analysed the Wellington Handicaps fully, and the Handicap under notice is much similar, I will make much the same selections, viz.: Battleaxe, Haydn, Mourner, and Tradewind, with the addition of Mars to supply the winner. Tradewind, whom I have seen jump, impressed me somewhat, and with Battleaxe would be my choice if compelled to pick the winner in twice.

The officials of the Wellington Racing Club have good reasons for being satisfied with the success of their meeting. The fields were large, and considering the state of the course the racing was excellent. The secretary, handicapper, starter, judge, and other officials carried the meeting through without a hitch, visitors being enabled to leave the course at 4.15 p.m. each day. The totalisator proprietor, Mr J. Ames, was equal to the occasion, the public being attended to promptly, and very little cash missed investment, and even then it was the fault of the investors themselves in being too dilatory.

The Wellington Racing Club's Spring Meeting will take place in October. The Stewards have realised that to hold the

meeting just subsequent to the Hawke's Bay meetings will be more popular with owners than to fix the meeting for the week following the New Zealand Cup. Hitherto the Wellington Club has depended on horses returning from the C.J.C. carnival, but last year a large number were incapacitated through the hard week's racing, and several teams went right on home being too jaded to race without a rest. This season all horses proceeding South will be enabled to have a gallop or two at Wellington on their way down. The meeting will be interesting, as many Cup and Stewards' horses will probably be seen out, and a line formed as to their probable prospects, the fields for some of the C.J.C. events may be affected, but each club must study its own interest.

OTAGO.

Dunedin, July 21.

The ten horses owned in this part of the world who claim engagement at the C.J.C. National Meeting have not been badly treated by the weight adjuster, except, perhaps, Vladimir, who looks too close to Pampero at a difference of 1lb over a mile. In the Steeple, Pipi, by his present form, does not look a likely winner, and Snider may not survive a preparation calculated to get him over three and a half miles over country. If Pampero was trained for the race he would run a good horse, and he looks the best of our lot on paper.

Our representatives in the Hurdles consist of Victor II. and Southerly Buster, and if the former can reproduce his best Australian form he would be entitled to a chance, but horses like Battleaxe, Tresham, and Tradewind should hold him fairly safe.

An important addition was made to the list of horses in training at Wingatui by the arrival from Sydney on Saturday last of the yearling colt Oxydonor, a son of Lochiel and Melissa, and consequently a full-brother to the well-known Australian performers, Survivor (now in England), and Revivor, both of whom have the A.J.C. Metropolitan handicap to their credit. The colt goes into McGuinness' stable and will race in the same interests as the Wallace filly who recently joined the team.

Mr T. Dempsey, one time well-known in Dunedin, was awarded the Maiden Hurdle race of £200 with his horse Examiner on the first day of the V.R.C. Grand National Meeting. The race was won by Kilt, but in the run home the latter interfered with Examiner and the Stewards disqualified him, and gave the race to Mr Dempsey's horse.

An esteemed Oamaru correspondent writes to say that he has seen the cable from Australia to Messrs Fleming and Hedley, Auctioneers, offering 500 guineas for Mr J. O'Brien's stallion Obligado, and further states that Mr O'Brien has asked 700 guineas for the son of Orville.

A. Ward intends taking his team for the C.J.C. National Meeting, consisting of Southerly Buster, Phaetonitis, and Victor II., up North in the course of a few days to complete their training for the meeting. Owing to the recent heavy fall of snow, the horses were off the tracks for several days, and had to be exercised on the sands.

Battleaxe for the Hurdles and Haydn are the two choice selections here for the National.

E. McComb, who spent about three years in Dunedin, is said to be getting a string of horses together in Tasmania. His many friends will be pleased to hear of his success, as he was very popular with all whom he came in contact with in this Island.

Dunedin, July 20.

A couple of days back I made a call at J. Rutledge's stables, and he kindly stripped the several inhabitants of his boxes for my inspection. He has at present a team of six in active commission, one in the "hospital," and one running out.

The latter is old Maremma, the black son of Lady Emma and Rubezhal who has been a good stake winner in the past. The veteran is looking healthy and well, and it is possible that he will sport silk again in some of the district races at Waikouaiti in the summer. The inhabitant of the "hospital" is Donna Rosa, the daughter of Don Pedro and Red Ensign, who, unfortunately, went amiss when she was showing marked improvement in her track form. She has now almost recovered, and walks sound, but would probably require firing or a stiffish blister before she could be put into work again.

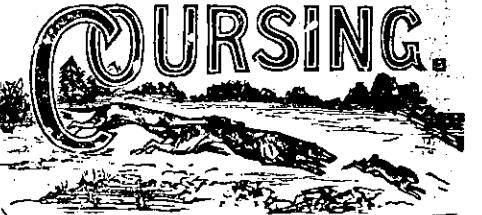
Canteen, the grey son of Castor and Viwandiere, is looking big and lusty and in excellent health. What little work he has been doing since resuming work on the tracks has given no indication that the trouble which caused retirement some few months back is likely to affect him again. It will be remembered that he slightly ricked his back, and it was deemed advisable to give him a spell. He is a good constitutioned horse with a rare set of legs and feet, and a fine, even temper. Apart from his colour the grey looks a Cup horse all over, and although he is not well treated through some of his old opponents on the race track, still he has a nice racing weight in the New Zealand Cup, and fit and well should run a good horse in the race.

Next to Canteen's box is the latest addition to the team in Vladimir, the handsome son of Stepniak and Mist. He is looking in excellent order, and is reserved for races up to a mile he should recoup his owners for the outlay incurred over his purchase.

Glenelg, the son of Ike and Enchantress, is not by any means an "oil painting," but although he is narrow, leggy, and roached-backed, as the farmers say, he can gallop all right. His best form last season was his bold bid for victory in the Fendalton Handicap, when he ran Halberdier to a short head, but he did not take part in the second race, when the C.J.C. stewards ordered the race to be re-run.

Ardnarff, the son of the Auckland Derby winner, Fitzhercules, is looking bright and well, and the rising two-year-old bit by Stepniak out of Cobweb is growing in the right way, and promises to furnish into an attractive looking horse.

The last one of the team inspected was Fate, a four-year-old by Stepniak out of Enchantress, and is a fine big raking chestnut mare that has a business-like air about her which attracts favourable attention. She is built on more attractive lines than her half-brother, Glenelg, but has small bony growths on both her fore pasterns, which may cause trouble later on, but at present she gallops soundly enough on the tracks. Taking his team all round, Rutledge may be said to have a string of horses who should more than pay their way next season.



(By "The Judge.")

The Wellington and Suburban Coursing Club has received eighty-eight nominations for the Wellington Cup, of 100 sovs, which will be run off on August 26, 28 and 29, at Trentham Park. Among the Auckland nominations I notice the names of the Messrs Tapper Bros., C. Chilcott, Martin Taylor, P. Briery, and T. Stewart. It seems highly probable that another successful gathering will eventuate.

Mr C. Withel's Gipsy won the Leeston C.C. All-aged Stake, defeating Mr Les Lievre's White Knight in the deciding course. Mr O. R. Wise, of Oamaru, acted as judge.

The Wairarapa Coursing Club intends forming an enclosure on the Masterton Show Ground, while the adjoining paddocks will form excellent feeding grounds for the hares. The run will be between four and five hundred yards, and a splendid view of the coursing will be obtained from the stand and raised ground. Mr Cochrane, the secretary, is taking energetic steps to have the place brought thoroughly up-to-date, while in a few days plenty of hares are due from Rangitata.

The N.S.W. St. Leger and Champion Cup will take place at Rooty Hill, near Sydney, on August 13 and 14.

The New South Wales N.C.A. will hold the Grand Challenge Stakes at Rooty Hill next year, and it promises to be the biggest event in the coursing line that has yet taken place in the Colonies. The prize money will run to over £500.

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