

According to an American exchange, the famous old pacer, Sleepy Tom, now 30 years old, is still driven by a Washington Hotel proprietor. The old horse was one of the attractions at the opening of the King County Fair last year, when he was credited with doing a quarter of a mile in 34½ sec.

In winning the Northumberland Plate at the Newcastle and High Gosforth Park (Eng.) meeting on June 24, Cliftonhall was credited with running the two miles in 3min 25.1-5sec. As he carried 7st 7lb, the performance was a marvellous one, as it is one-fifth of a second under Palmerston's world's record made at Hurst Park, England, in 1899. Wakeful holds the Australian record of 3min 28sec for the distance.

At a sale of the brood mares and foals in the estate of the late Colonel Harry M'Callmont last month, some very big prices were realised. Medora (Bend Or—Agneta), with a Ladas colt foal at foot, and covered by Persimmon, went to Lord M. Beresford at 5600gs. The same buyer gave 8000gs. for Amphora (Amphion—Sierra). The American sportsmen, Messrs. A. Belmont and W. C. Whitney, were also to the fore. Mr Belmont gave 4600 gs for Hautesse (Archduic—Hautour), and 3600gs for Fairy Gold (Bend Or—Dame Masham). The first-mentioned had a colt foal at foot by Ladas. Mr Whitney's new purchases were Jeunesse Doree (Isinglass—La Croisee), with a filly foal by Whittier, at 3500gs; and Snowy Corrie (Tristan—Corrie Roy), with colt by Whittier, at 2600gs. Galiene (Galopin—Lady Chelmsford) went to Lord Howard de Walden at 3000gs, and Mecca (Isonomy—Pilgrimage) to the Hon. F. Lambton at 2100gs.

Survivor was a failure in England, and it is evidently going to be the same with the Melbourne Cup winner, Clean Sweep. The latter has had a couple of runs in England, and each time has acted as whipper-in, his latest appearance being in the Manor Welter Plate, a mile weight-for-age race, at Gatwick on June 23. He had a 20lb allowance, owing to not having won in 1902 or 1903, but, despite that advantage, could never get near the front. According to an English exchange, he is but a shadow of his former self, and is so infirm that G. Chaloner has great difficulty in training him. Under the circumstances, he may not do much more racing.

Only four living jockeys have carried off the English Derby on more than one occasion. The list is headed by Wood, who has been first past the post with St. Blaise (883), St. Gatien (dead-heated with Harvester in 1884), and Galtee More in 1897. Sam Loates rode two, viz., Harvester (1884) and Sir Visto (1895), and his younger brother Tom two, with Donovan (1889) and Isinglass (1893). The late John Watts scored four times in the great race. In 1887 he steered Merry Hampton to victory; in 1890 Sainfoin, in 1894 Ladas, and in 1896 Persimmon. Harry Constance won the Derby three times, on Thormanby, Blue Gown, and George Frederick. Although he is a frequenter of other courses, he took such a dislike to Epsom that he has not visited that place for nearly 30 years.

When Sceptre was purchased by Mr Bass, one of the wealthiest men in England, for 20,000 guineas, it was given out that this wonderful mare's first engagement in her rich owner's colours would be in defence of the Ascot Cup against the French invaders, but Mr Bass withdrew the daughter of Persimmon, and cleared the atmosphere for the Frenchman. Among the gentlemen of England the Ascot Cup is next in their affections to the Derby, and Mr Bass preferred to keep his famous mare for a certainty—the Hardwicke Stakes. William the Third, the best stayer in England, was ready to defend the Cup against the invaders, but at the last moment developed leg troubles, and had to be withdrawn. The "Sporting Times" strikes the right key note with the following:—"The French horse, we need scarcely state, had got the race well won a long way from home, and from what we can hear it is lucky for us that they did not send La Camargo over also, as in that case they would probably have been first and second, with La Camargo most likely winning. All this time we had in England a mare that might have averted all this disgrace to us, and she was kept in her stable merely in order to try to win a moneyprize on the following day, to which no glory whatever attaches. And there was Ard Patrick, who is going just now in fine form? Bob Sievier, poor as he is, would not have let the Frenchman have the Cup without a fight for it had he still got Sceptre, was the remark that was made on all hands. The possession of a few hundreds of thousands of pounds per annum does not necessarily make a man a sportsman, and we believe that there is far more of the sporting grit in Bob than is to be found in many men whose names read better on the back of a bill."

AFTER THE RACES.

CANTERBURY J.C. GRAND NATIONAL MEETING.

(From Our Canterbury Correspondent.)

A beautiful spring day, with the sun shining brightly, favoured the Canterbury Jockey Club for the opening of its Grand National Meeting. The weather was more like that experienced in November, and thousands of people took advantage of such a delightful day to spend a few hours at Riccarton. The town presented quite a deserted appearance in the afternoon, and those retail houses that kept open did very little business.

It was generally conceded that Riccarton has never looked better at this time of the year than it did to-day. The course was in first-class order, and no accidents of any note occurred to mar the day's enjoyment. The horses that fell escaped injury, as also did their riders.

In the Grand National Steeplechase Awahuri, Pipi, Haydn and Hipstone comprised the leading division until a mile from home, when Hipstone fell, leaving the other three to fight out the finish. Awahuri, who shepherded Pipi throughout, had the race won half-a-mile from home, and finished two and a-half lengths ahead of Pipi, who ran surprisingly well. Haydn's performance in getting third was a capital one. As far as appearances went last year's winner stood out first, with this year's winner a good second. Pipi also looked well, and the same remark applies to Straybird, who jumped in his usual finished style.

The day's racing commenced with the First Hunters' Hurdles, a fine field of thirteen facing the starter. Reliance, 11st 3lb, was made a strong favourite, the North Island mare Hinewai, 12st 6lb, being next in demand. Ayrdale, 12st 4lb, led the field for the first half-mile, when a bad jump lost him ground. Mokowhiti, 11st, then went on in front, followed by Fairy Rose, 11st 5lb, and Wonderful, 11st 12lb, Ayrdale next. Passing the six furlongs post Reliance and Plain Tom, 11st 3lb, closed on the leading division, and before reaching the straight Plain Tom had run into first place. Safely negotiating the last fence, Plain Tom easily held his own on the flat, and beat Fairy Rose by a length and a-half, with Wonderful two and a-half lengths further away third. Ayrdale was fourth, and Reliance fifth.

The Maiden Hurdles is usually an interesting race, from the fact that several Grand National Hurdle candidates take part, tending to make it one of the chief events of the day. In the race decided to-day seven Grand National horses took part, and three of them occupied places. Battleaxe's full brother Tupara, 10st 5lb, was sent out a better favourite than Catherine Gordon, 9st 7lb, who was making her initial attempt over hurdles. Khaki, Aratapu, Catherine Gordon, and Comfort comprised the leading division for a couple of furlongs, when Aratapu singled himself out and led Khaki by a length or two at Cutts', with Comfort, Evening, and Tupara coming next. This order was maintained to the mile post, when Evening ran into first place, and Comfort and Tupara closed up. Evening held her position going round the bend and into the straight, Comfort, Tupara and Catherine Gordon being close up. Evening got over the last hurdle just clear of Tupara and Comfort, who lost his rider. Once on the flat Tupara was too fast for Evening, and beat her by a couple of lengths, Catherine Gordon being another two lengths away third, with Wet Blanket fourth. Tradewind did not start.

Ostiak was the only withdrawal from the Winter Cup, leaving the large field of eighteen to go to the post. Rawiri was at once pounced upon as the correct pea, but he got away badly, and was never

nearer than fourth at any part of the race, and finally pulled up lame. A capital start was effected, Vladimir being first to break line. On settling into their strides Vladimir had Pampero, Paritutu and Battleaxe as his nearest attendants, Red Gauntlet being at the head of the others. Vladimir showed the way past the six furlongs post, where Paritutu and Pampero were following in close order, while Battleaxe had lost his place, and run up into fourth place. This order was maintained round the far turn, but before landing into the straight Rawiri was almost on terms with Pampero, who was now Vladimir's nearest attendant. When well into the running there was little to choose between Vladimir, Pampero, Rawiri and Paritutu, the others being headed by Battleaxe, Nell Gwynn and Grand Rapids. Paritutu was first to lose his place, and at the outer stand Rawiri was in difficulties, while Vladimir and Pampero were going nicely in front. Pampero was first to be ridden, but though he responded gamely Vladimir had a little the better of the final struggle, and lasted long enough to win by a neck. By a late run Nell Gwynn got third place, finishing three lengths behind Pampero, then at an interval of a length and a-half came Grand Rapids, followed by Battleaxe and Shrapnel Shell.

Next followed the great race of the day, the Grand National Steeplechase. All the horses figuring on the card went out to contest the big jumping race of the season. In a spirited betting race Haydn was sent out first favourite, Awahuri and Hipstone coming next in demand. From an even start Straybird soon showed in front, and led to the first jump, where Scallywag came to grief. At the jump opposite the stand the order was Pipi, Hipstone, Straybird and Awahuri, while at the fence in front of the members' stand the order was the same, but here Gronje came to grief. Pipi continued to show the way to the jump opposite Cutts', over which he was followed by Hipstone, Haydn and Straybird. Once over this obstacle Pipi increased his lead to half a dozen lengths, his nearest attendants being Haydn, Hipstone and Awahuri. Around the back this order was maintained, but at the kennels double Awahuri was second to Pipi, well in front of Haydn and Hipstone, the latter soon after closing up. At the big sod wall Pipi was well in front of Haydn, who was followed by Awahuri and Hipstone. Round the bend Pipi, still going freely, led the way from Haydn, Awahuri, Straybird and The Gryphon. There was but little change up the straight, where all were jumping well, but at the jump opposite the members' stand Hipstone, who was running close to Haydn, rapped. At Cutts' the order was Pipi, Haydn, Hipstone and Awahuri, with The Gryphon closing up. At the sod wall Awahuri had run up next to Haydn, with Hipstone still close up. Opposite the kennels Awahuri had run up to Pipi and assumed command before entering the straight. Once in the straight the result was never afterwards in doubt, for Awahuri won easing up by two and a-half lengths from Pipi, with Haydn eight lengths away third, Straybird fourth, Jack o' Lantern fifth, The Gryphon sixth, and Sultana seventh.

The Tally-ho Plate Steeplechase was won very easily by The Whip, who beat his stable companion, King, by six lengths, Typhoon being third. Agitator, the favourite, fell early in the race, while Gladys ran off.

The Ladies' Bracelet was an exercise gallop for Waiwera, who, after leading most of the way, easily beat Stepdancer by half-a-dozen lengths.

The Enfield Steeplechase produced a capital race, Victory having the best of the finish from Umslopagaas, Fright running into third place.

The Woolston Plate was annexed by Glenaladale, who easily beat Narcissus at the end, with something to spare, Nutcracker being third.

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WOLFE'S SCHNAPPS

INTER-PROVINCIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

WELLINGTON

Wellington, August 8.

The newly-elected stewards of the Masterton Racing Club met last Wednesday. Mr C. F. Vallance was re-appointed Chairman for the ensuing year Mr Pilmer was elected a steward, vice Mr Mace resigned; Mr Hartgill was appointed judge, and Mr T. Cameron starter. Mr Henrys was reappointed handicapper, and it was resolved that he must attend the first day's meeting. Mr J. Ames was entrusted with the working of the totalisator, as on former occasions.

Owing to the absence of most trainers at the Grand National meeting, the local training tracks are deserted. Those horses that did not go South are being confined to walking exercise with an occasional trot over the hills.

Motor, Melwood and Ringman, whose engagements in the New Zealand Cup have been continued, are all healthy and well, and will be seriously put into work on the return of their mentors. Regiment, Manawaru, Mauserine, Waikakeho, Hydrant, and others located at the Hutt, are all in capital trim and will be prepared for the spring meetings at Otaki, Wellington and Masterton, which take place in October next.

The Porirua trainer, J. Prosser, who is also assisting at the Canterbury meeting, has a large team in work. Achilles and his full brother, Sea Lion, are doing nicely, and have continued their engagements in the N.Z. Cup. Gold Crown will be reserved for less pretentious events. The appearance of the names of Achilles and Sea Lion amongst the list of first payments for the Cup has not improved their position in the betting market here. As it is generally understood that Jenkins has accepted the mount on Lady Lillian an impression has gone forth that the Porirua crack may be reserved for w.f.a. events. Early backers will act wisely by exercising a little patience before making their Cup investments.

R. Hewitt's friends were pleased to see him looking sound and well. Messrs Price and Pettie, who with Hewitt passed through Wellington on their return from San Francisco, were besieged by sporting interviewers anxious to learn something of sport in the American city. From all accounts the trio were much taken with what they saw. Mr Pettie informed me that he seriously contemplates returning to San Francisco and settling there. Every description of sport is booming there, and New Zealanders who have settled there are waxing wealthy by leaps and bounds. No poverty was discernable, and money is plentiful.

A sub-committee has been appointed by the stewards of the Wellington Racing Club to report as to the best means of connecting the Hutt Park with the main railway line. When this is accomplished a long walk over two narrow bridges will be avoided. The Hon. T. K. Macdonald has been moving in the matter, and hopes to have the railway line laid on to the course before the end of this racing season.

The well-known racehorse, King's Bowman, who raced in the colours of Mr P. F. Tancred, fell while galloping in a paddock, and broke his neck. Bowman, as he was termed, won a number of good races in his time.

At the Annual Meeting of the Marlborough Racing Club it was resolved that the incoming stewards be recommended to invite applications for the position of handicapper, such official to attend the meeting in person.

Ask for

Wolfe's Schnapps

And Take Nothing Else.