

**OPUNAKE RACING CLUB.**

**STYRAX WINS BIG EVENT.**

(From Cur Special Correspondent.)

The Opunake Jockey Club held their annual meeting on Tuesday (March 17), the weather, which was showery in the morning, clearing off, enabling the gathering to be conducted under favourable circumstances. The meeting was liberally patronised, the attendance constituting a record. Visitors attended in strong force, among those present being the Hon. W. H. Herries, Dr. Pomare and Mr. C. A. Wilkinson, M.P. Some keen racing was witnessed, and Mr. J. McMahon, chief stipendiary steward, found no cause to instigate an inquiry during the afternoon. The gathering was conducted in a manner distinctly praiseworthy to the secretary, Mr. P. S. Riley, who had charge of arrangements. Mr. Alf. Morse officiated as starter, and gave general satisfaction by the evenness of his despatches. Mr. R. Morrissey made an efficient judge, his decisions being promptly given.

Mcney poured in freely at the totalisator windows, £11,875 being handled, as against £9371 at last year's meeting, being an increase of £2504.

The afternoon's racing was commenced with the Maiden Handicap, for which eleven horses went to the post; most support being forthcoming for Royal Loop, while Sylvan Dale, Armature and Project were all well backed. The finish resolved itself into a sterling struggle between the favourite and Project, the latter, who is an inmate of P. Coffey's stable at Hawera, gaining the verdict by half a head, with Ridicule third. Armature ran a good race in the early stages, but tired badly at the finish.

The top weight, Cornelian, was first choice for the Handicap Hurdles, in which a field of six started, Katua being next in demand. The public's selection proved correct, Cornelian winning easily under his 12.4 burden by five lengths from Katua, with the field strung out.

Calais was a strong tip for the Flying Handicap, and with Deeley in the saddle it was no surprise to find the half brother to Zetes a good favourite. Martingale and Rector Girl met with most support among the other four starters. The latter flattered her backers for the early part of the contest, but once in line for home Calais soon had her measure, and had little difficulty in defeating the fast finishing Patronata by a length and a-half, with Martingale third.

Nine was the main in the Opunake Racing Club Handicap (one mile and a-quarter), in which Styrax was backed down under evens. Patronymic, Invader and Patroness were the only others to meet with any degree of support. The race revealed the good thing the favourite was considered, for he won by four lengths from an outsider in Minora, with John Willie, who ran a good race, a length and a-half away third.

Ten lined up at the barrier for the Electric Stakes, for which Innoladdo, on whom A. Oliver had the mount, was made a very strong order with punters. Patroon was also in much favour, while Patronata, who had run second to Calais earlier in the afternoon, was accorded a fair measure of support. Patroon was the smartest away, and though challenged by Zion and Patronata inside the distance, she won comfortably by three-

quarters of a length from Zion, with Patronata a couple of lengths away third. The favourite was never in a position to flatter her backers, and did not finish in the first half dozen.

Lady Almai had a slight call over Florist in the betting on the Welter Handicap, in which there were seven starters. The favourite had to be content with second place to Florist, who led practically from start to finish, winning by a length, with Billington in third position.

With the exception of Crawford, who was a strong second favourite, the whole of the seven contestants that went to the post in the President's Handicap were making their second appearance during the afternoon. Patronymic, who had run well

**ATHLETICS.**

**TREMBATH'S FINE RUN.**

(By Telegraph—Dunedin Correspondent)

MONDAY, March 23.

The feature of the Otago Caledonian Society's sports held at Dunedin to-day was the attempt of W. F. Trembath, the New Zealand professional champion to break his own record of 1min 58 1-5sec for the half-mile on the Caledonian track. The going was heavy after the recent rain,



The late MR. W. W. NAUGHTON, the great all-round sporting writer, whose death, through heart failure, was recently reported from San Francisco. Mr. Naughton was a native of Auckland, and held the position of Sporting Editor of the San Francisco "Examiner," while altogether he contributed to no less than nine different papers.

for a mile in the Racing Club Handicap, was installed favourite, and he won from end to end, though W. Price had to ride him hard to win by a neck from John Willie, who defeated Patroness by two lengths for second honours.

Calais was produced again for the Farewell Stakes, and, notwithstanding his 14lb penalty, he was backed down to a very short price, Innoladdo and Rector Girl being the next best supported of the septette of starters. A great struggle ensued in the straight between the favourite and Rector Girl, but Calais, capably handled by Deeley, defeated his rival by half a head. Zion was a length away third.

but nevertheless Trembath ran a splendid race. He caught his field at the half distance, and going on finished in the splendid time, considering the state of the track, in 2 mins. This is a fine run on the Caledonian ground, which is notoriously slow. There is no doubt that had Trembath been extended he would have got under the 2min. Trembath also competed in the 220 yds and 440yds, but, although he ran well and put up good times, he was unable to win. Trembath has now retired from the track.

Hector Burk, the old amateur champion, came out of his retirement to-day, but was in no condition, and finished out of a place.



JESSIE CAMPBELL, ten years of age, winner of the Irish Jig at the Domain Sports on Saturday last.

**ALL BLACKS v. SPRINGBOKS.**

M. W. Hutchison, formerly a journalist of Christchurch and now on the staff of the Rand "Daily Mail," Johannesburg, is at present on a visit to Dunedin. Asked what he thought of the respective merits of the Springboks and All Blacks on the Rugby field Mr. Hutchison said:—"Offside" McKenzie asked me the same thing in Sydney. I think we have got a very good Rugby side in South Africa, but no outstanding men at present. I don't think South Africa to-day is as strong as the team of Springboks that visited England. They reckoned in South Africa that that team was as good as the All Blacks, but, of course, we New Zealanders didn't think so, and when it came down to saying which was the better the critics usually said the All Blacks."

Mr. Hutchison added that a visit from a New Zealand team would arouse great enthusiasm in South Africa, where the merits of these two teams were frequently discussed. He added that, assuming New Zealand Rugby had gone back a bit since the All Blacks' tour, South Africa could give the visitors a good game. He was sorry to think that the amateur game was being challenged in any degree by the professional game. There was no such trouble in South Africa, where, Mr. Hutchison said, the New Zealanders would find a lot of good sports playing the game for its own sake.

**THE SOMERVILLE SHIELD.**

(From Our Wanganui Correspondent.)

Considerable interest is being taken in the challenge race to be rowed next Saturday on the Wanganui River for the above trophy between eights representing the Union and Wanganui Clubs. The U.B.C. is generally expected to retain the shield, although the supporters of the challenging crew are not without hope that the red and blacks will defeat the light blues. The former have had more experience at eight-oared rowing, and reckon that this will tell in their favour, though they admit the undoubted superiority of the light blues at four-oared rowing. The Union crew will not be quite the same as rowed at Auckland, as C. Dustin will go in as number two instead of C. Wodman, while E. Rylands, three of the champion fours, has definitely retired from rowing and a substitute will have to be found for him. Ryland's withdrawal will weaken the combination, but all the same a capable substitute will be found, as the club possesses several very promising young oarsmen, and the eight finally chosen should have little difficulty in winning.

Eddie McGoorty, the famous American middleweight, took his departure from Sydney yesterday (Wednesday) for England. McGoorty will proceed to Ireland to fulfil an engagement during Horse Fair week.



MISS MABEL BATCHELOR, Lyric Soprano, who is appearing as the Princess in George Willoughby's Pantomime "Aladdin."



MONS. HENRI MARCELLE AND NELLIE FALLON, Ragtime Exponents in George Willoughby's Pantomime "Aladdin" at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland.