



A most strenuous time is in store this week and next for racegoers in the two chief racing centres in the Dominion, Canterbury and Auckland—Canterbury in particular—and there are indications that each of the metropolitan race meetings and the chief trotting meeting held in New Zealand will be carried through as successfully, from a racing standpoint, as any of their predecessors. There is no lack of racing material, no shortage of trotting and pacing stock, and there is certainly plenty of money available for carrying on racing campaigns, and apparently quite as many people as ever coming forward to lend their patronage and support as there were before the war. The ranks of racegoers have been relieved of many sport, but the gaps in the ranks of adherents fill up wonderfully, and it is fully anticipated that there will be little falling off, if any, in the attendances at the meetings referred to. Good horses are set down to compete in all departments, and there should be racing quite up to the standard of the best previous years.

It is quite possible for racegoers to see the opening day of the Auckland Racing Club's spring meeting through and leave Auckland the same night, the next morning or evening, by Main Trunk express and reach Christchurch in time for the opening of the big carnival there. A good many ardent followers of the sport intend doing this, and as there are four days' racing and three days' trotting and pacing to be witnessed, and the special and annual sales of blood stock and the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Association's show crowded into a matter of eight days those who go through the whole programme, as some invariably contrive to do, will have a busy and, if strenuous, let us hope a pleasing time. There is ever much that is entertaining in these annual reunions, which have a magnetic attraction for the people, many of whom make long excursions to be present and thus help to make them in-erprovincial in character.

The horses that compete at these Canterbury meetings are drawn from all parts of the Dominion, the blood stock sales include entries of thoroughbreds reared and got into marketable order in the North Island as well as in the South, and certainly nowhere else are there such assemblages of representative sportsmen and breeders as are to be met with in the enclosures on the long-famed Riccarton Downs, and at Addington, where the popularity of the American sport has brought it to a stage of perfection unexcelled in any part of the world, which is saying a very great deal, no doubt—all true, however. Our tracks are not so fast as they are in the States of America, nor are our best horses so good as the best there, but our trotting and pacing contests under existing conditions are very entertaining, and in other respects Canterbury is really ahead of American methods.

The Metropolitan Trotting Club's course, stands and conveniences are more extensive, from what we have learned from observant people who have travelled through the States, than anywhere else. All the best material is available for the big meeting which opens on November 9th, and in which Auckland and other North Island owners are interested. This sport is developing on lines that have brought it into the front rank in the South, and it would not have been believed a few years ago that any trotting club would be in a position to give so valuable a stake as 2500sovs. to be run for, or a comparatively small community to give a galloping race of 2000sovs. and a race for pacing horses, which the New Zealand Trotting Cup virtually is now, in the same week. There is no other part of the world where such a thing is an accomplished fact, and no other place that offers such a variety of high-class entertainment as can be had at carnival time in Can-

terbury. There is no disputing this contention. The respective meetings are referred to more particularly elsewhere, and as both clubs are proverbially lucky in the matter of weather we trust that the visitors thereto, as well as the large army of local enthusiasts who assist, will have the most pleasant experiences in that and other respects.

What the effect of the new and increased form of taxation will mean to the clubs and meetings we have referred to and to the Auckland Racing Club, we are somewhat curious to learn. With the exception of a comparatively few meetings this season, increased totalisator investments have been recorded all along the line, and there was no reason to expect that they would be correspondingly less at Ellerslie, Riccarton and Addington than elsewhere. On the other hand, increases have been looked for, and we do not wish to appear pessimistic when we express misgivings under

the Auckland Racing Club, which put through £59,745 during the two days, would contribute to the revenue £7318, instead of £5974, and of that sum the Government's share would amount to £2837, as against £1493. On the spring meeting of the Canterbury Jockey Club the figures would work out at £16,282 for the four days, and the Government's share would amount in round numbers to £4070 10s., or under the new conditions to £7744. Taking the total investments at the two meetings, racing and trotting, the deductions from the total stake amounted to £23,977. Another £5395 would be deducted under the conditions that came into operation this week. Would a sum like this make so very much difference taken from so many people? We considered that even that amount will be missed from circulation and as the season advances and the amounts taken from the public are built up that the effect will become still more noticeable. We trust that the revenue from this

come through as one of the placed division, and more so at the defeat of Cetigne by the Victorian owned Patrobas, who is by Wallace, and whose indifferent showing in the Caulfield Cup with the minimum weight, 6.7, was by no means encouraging as a Derby prospect, to those who had been looking forward to him as a very likely colt to uphold the name of Victoria. Caulfield Guineas form worked out all right, however, and Patrobas must now be regarded as having redeemed his character. Future events will have to decide whether three-year-old form is good or only moderate this season in Australia, and we hope that Mr. T. H. Lowry, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Dalgety or other New Zealand horse owners may have something useful enough to throw down the gauntlet with to both Victoria and New South Wales owners when the autumn rolls round.



ASSISTING CAPTAIN J. A. LIDDELL, THE WOUNDED ENGLISH AIRMAN, WHO HAS WON THE V.C., TO ALIGHT FROM HIS MACHINE ON LANDING. On a reconnaissance over Ostend Capt. Liddell's thigh was broken by a shot, but with an amazing effort he controlled his machine, saved the life of his observer, and brought the aeroplane into the British lines.

this head. There has seldom been a meeting at Riccarton or at Ellerslie at which a greater amount of business might have been transacted if there had been greater expedition in paying out to investors, and at Riccarton the receiving of investments has never been done so smartly as at Ellerslie, and consequently lots of money has been regularly shut out.

The collecting of the increased tax does not present any difficulties or require any larger staffs than formerly, though understaffing has brought with it disadvantages and unnecessarily long waits for dividend receivers, who, as a rule, complain in a very quiet way. The clubs will not deduct 12½ per cent. from the total investments and then work out the dividends, as many have supposed, but after deducting 10 per cent. as heretofore another 2½ per cent. will be taken from the balance left, which will represent 90 per cent. of the whole. On the figures of last year

source will not decrease for should it do so we may have to face reductions in stake offerings. In the meantime we can only await developments, and under ordinary circumstances they are not likely to be marked in any case until much later in the season.

Racing in Australia was engaging the attention of New Zealanders a little on Saturday. The fact that a number of New Zealand-owned and some New Zealand-bred ones were likely to compete at Flemington, apart from the usual interest that has attached more or less to the decision of big events, tended to make many curious to hear the results. It was quite expected in many quarters that Wallace Isinglass might turn the tables on his A.J.C. Derby conqueror in the decision of the Victorian Racing Club's Derby, but that did not eventuate. It must have come somewhat in the nature of a surprise, however, when that colt's name did not

The Maribynong Plate, one of the richest races for two-year-olds in Australia and one of the longest established, fell to a filly called Ettefred, not a very brilliant effort at nomenclature, and obvious only when the fact that her sire is George Frederick (the name of a Derby winner that should not have been allowed) and Simmerette is her dam. The more appropriately-named Irish Comedy, by Comedy King from Our Queen, bred by Mr. Sol Green, was the runner-up, and Comedy King seems to be leaving promising youngsters. Denet, who was third is by The Welkin, and is a full-sister to Mr. D. Buick's Three, one of the best three-year-olds in New Zealand.

The Melbourne Stakes have been won often enough by good horses and occasionally by good fillies, seldom by anything more brilliant than the Traquair mare Traquette, half-sister to Ettefred, the Maribynong Plate winner, as both claim Simmerette as their dam. Traquette won good races at two and three years old, and is retaining her form all right. Garlin, another of the same age, proved the runner-up, and the consistent Cagou, who is now six years old, figured in third place. Reputation was not a starter on this occasion, and on top of the hard strain of the Sydney campaign it may have been considered wise not to give him a hard race before the Cup. Di Gama, who was sold for 2000 guineas recently, St. Carwyne, Carlita, Mountain Knight, Naxbery, Woorak, Radnor, Onazer and Burabadeen started in the Melbourne Stakes at weight for age and finished behind Traquette, Garlin and Cagou. The field was about the best that has competed on weight-for-age terms over this distance this season.

It has been estimated by a contemporary that it costs over £200 per head to land thoroughbred horses from England to New Zealand. In these days war rates no doubt have increased the cost to shippers, but £200 seems beyond the odds when £70 would do the business nicely a few short years ago. When horses were brought to these shores many years ago in sailing ships as old Traducer, who made turf history, and Mermaid, ancestress of Lurline, Ledoup, Natator and many celebrities, were, it is probable that the cost was still very much lower, though it took so many weary days, weeks and months to do the long voyage. Traducer, Tom King and Leotard were sires that came in the one ship and also Mermaid and Tomiris and the trip occupied 172 days, including a week at the Cape. The average trip is less than 50 days now. The voyage of the Kensington, in which the horses referred to were imported, was an unusually long one and 53 years ago, since which time horse values have gone up and shipping conditions have changed. Increased speed costs something.