

## TURF TOPICS.

L. H. Hewitt will be riding at the Dunedin J.C. meeting.

Blackall was still favourite on Saturday and Monday for the Auckland Cup.

Rotorua is suggested as a better place to send the rheumaticy Kilboy than to the seaside.

One race was forty minutes late at the Waipa meeting, but the time was nearly made up before the day was out.

The Totalisator Bill passed its second reading in the New South Wales Parliament, with some modifications, last week.

Depredation made good at the Waipa meeting on Saturday, where he was well treated in the Te Awamutu Cup. He started a warm favourite.

There were errors in the weights issued for the Stratford meeting in some of the daily papers. The correct list appears in this issue. The club should receive a good acceptance.

Though the acceptance list was a big one, the scratching on Saturday for most of the events at the Waipa meeting were heavy. Nevertheless there were good fields.

Patumahoe is about as big and coarse a gelding as could be found in training. What he cannot jump he should be strong enough to knock down.

Rain from an early hour on Sunday morning continued throughout the day steadily, doing a lot of good. Trainers appreciated it, as also the caretakers of racecourses in Auckland.

Mr. Ernest Alison has a gelding by Hymettus, two years old, running at grass still, and he looks shapely. The gelding is from Simois, and was one of the lots sold last year at Alexandra Park.

The Motiti Island-owned Patricia Delaval, who met with an accident while racing at the Bay of Plenty meeting, had to be destroyed, as it was considered improbable that she could be saved.

Mullingar's name was not telegraphed south as a final acceptor for the Auckland Cup. He has not bled while at work since a fortnight ago, and that was after an interval of seven months.

Mr. W. Paterson's two yearling colts by Monoform, to be sold on December 30th at Epsom, arrived last week from Motiti Island, and have been placed with F. Macmanemin until the sale. They are well grown, good sorts.

The acceptances for the Thames meeting, which opens on Boxing Day, are such as to indicate a good opening day. There are sixteen in the Maiden and thirteen in the First Steeplechase, and other races have filled well.

A brother scribe has given the breeding of Alteration as by Provocation from Mahurangi, by San Fran. As a matter of fact he is by Elevation (half-brother to Provocation) from Eduam, by San Fran from Maude, dam of Mahutonga, and should be useful some day.

Mr. W. Dunn, the Waihou breeder, still continues to name his yearling thoroughbreds before he sells them. Arch Lassie, Shining Light and Statuette are the names he has given the three by Marble Arch, and Miss Latour is the name selected for the General Latour—Missie Hippo filly.

There will be racing at Ellerslie on Tuesday and Friday of next week, while Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday are set aside for trotting and pacing at Alexandra Park, Auckland, and on Thursday morning, at the Show Grounds, Epsom, adjoining Alexandra Park, the thoroughbred yearlings are to be sold.

There were not fewer than twenty-two runners for the Waipa Stakes, a fixed-weight race and the opening event of the Te Awamutu meeting, run on Saturday. This was a distinct compliment to the club; indeed, the biggest field that has ever started on the course and probably a record for the Waikato. There were nine scratchings.

Munster, with a bit more racing, should be got back to winning form. Though Lady Penury proved incapable of giving away 18lb. to him and Te Papapa failed to concede him 2lb., Depredation was more seasoned and conceded him 11lb. and had a bit to spare.

Companion, by Freedom from a mare whose breeding was returned as unknown, proved a surprise packet in the Pirongia Hurdles at the Waipa meeting, his supporters receiving a dividend in the region of a quarter of a century. Ulster was served up a fairly warm dish, but could only get third, and is evidently not very solid.

Ring Lupin and King Lupin were both winners at Waipa in their respective races, and each won by long margins, as did Bingham. As each of the chestnut sons of Lupin carried substantial impost and gave away lots of weight to the other runners, it shows how useful each is and how mediocre are a lot of horses that help to provide sport for the people.

The Marble Arch gelding British Arch, though he won at Avondale, was still eligible to compete in the Orakau Maiden under the conditions of the race, which he won. Alf Delaval was a much more fancied candidate for

from Ismene, by Dreadnought from Marion, and was sold at the yearling sales at Alexandra Park last January to his present owner for 45 guineas.

The special commissioner of the London "Sportsman," who purchased Otterden, then in foal to Martagon, for the late Mr. G. G. Stead, states that he remembers no other mare whose sons were so successful at the stud during the lifetime of their dam. He alludes to Martian and Boniform; and, if Sun God had not met with a fatal accident, he also would have added to the family fame. Sun God did win, and would have won the New Zealand Cup most likely had he lived.

Two young thoroughbreds, foaled in 1913, were landed in Auckland last week to the order of Mr. H. de Latour, of Gisborne, and were taken charge of on arrival by Frank Loomb, who is located at Greenlane with some of the Gisborne sportsman's horses engaged at the A.R.C. summer meeting. They were selected by the Hon. Jas. Carroll in Ireland. The colt Critic is by Henry the First from Cynane, by Cyllene, and the filly is by Henry the First from Quickstitch, by Ladas. They are to be trained later on for their new owner.



A DOUBLE WINNER AT THE TAKAPUNA J.C.'S RECENT MEETING. Mr. E. W. Alison's ch g ROCKFIED, 3yrs., by Monoform—Golden Rose. C. Carmont in saddle.

the race. St. Francis, who won the Tauranga Cup the week previous, was a starter and got second, a case of a cup winner not being good enough for a minor event.

The first signs of drying up of pastures presented themselves this week, owing to a few hot days being in evidence. The course proper at Ellerslie is being constantly watered, and will be in capital condition, especially if any rain should come between now and the start of the Ellerslie meeting next week, when it will not be necessary to draw from the Auckland Racing Club's reserve.

The Te Awamutu course should become a popular one amongst country racecourses in the Auckland province, and it can be said that few offer such advantages. Being close to the railway line, it will be accessible by a short route when the bridge is erected over the river which runs past the boundary. The course should never get hard. It is almost dead level, and fairly fast, in proof of which the times registered thereon can be pointed to.

Bingham, the winner of the Waipa Stakes, upset a good favourite in the Bezonian gelding Bezmar, and surprised most people by winning by several lengths of a margin. He was the only two-year-old that started, and, of course, the weights were in his favour. He is a gelding son of All Black and Esmah, by Merriwee

pasturage for the young ones by more breeders. The past season has been a very good one throughout the Dominion for feed and developing yearlings.

It is understood that very fair entries were received for the Northern Wairoa meeting on Saturday.

Wellington stables are well represented in the Nursery Handicap at Tauherenikau on January 1. H. Telford has engaged Association and Street Singer, J. W. Lowe has Cooling, C. Pritchard Trentham Rose, Pupill and Artuka, and H. Kingar Pervolo.

Marc Antony is amongst the arrivals at Ellerslie. It is said that his final acceptance for the Auckland Cup was missed, but whether that is so or not he is on the big side, and the distance would, under the circumstances, have been against him. A shorter race should be more to his liking. He claims a number of engagements during the A.R.C. meeting.

Housewife is a quiet tip from Takapuna for the Railway Handicap. She is trained on the beach over there. A short time back it was thought that she would not be able to run this year, but it would seem likely that we shall see her in evidence before 1917 is reached.

In addition to the yearling thoroughbreds to be disposed of on December 30th by the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Co., there will be a sale on January 3rd of horses in training, thoroughbred mares and other racing stock, and there are some twenty-five lots already listed, as will be seen from the advertisement on another page. These will be referred to next week, but the list shows that buyers will have plenty of material to select from for racing and breeding purposes.

The Waipa Racing Club have every reason to congratulate themselves on the success of their annual meeting on Saturday. An indication of the popularity of the fixture was afforded by the great number of racing enthusiasts who journeyed by train from Auckland, the presence of so many keen followers of the turf at Te Awamutu giving the gathering almost the prominence of a metropolitan meeting. The totalisator receipts were of a most gratifying nature, £12,925 10s. being handled, while in four instances the favourite fulfilled expectations. In order to cope with the increased number of patrons that are expected to attend the next annual fixture, the club contemplates making several further improvements in their appointments, and taken all round the club is assured of a prosperous future.

That Depredation did not display his true form in the Spring Handicap on the concluding day of the recent Takapuna meeting, when the son of Campfire failed to run into a place, was the opinion freely held by the average racegoer, who instanced his double victory in the two principal events at the Wanganui spring meeting as an illustration of his galloping ability. It was therefore not surprising to find Depredation monopolise the betting on the Waipa Cup on Saturday, and though he was tailing the field in the early stages, Deeley brought him along nicely at the finish, scoring decisively by a length. In fact, his display in the Waipa Cup further strengthens his claims as an Auckland Cup possibility.

Three years ago Mr. Ernest Alison sent his Seaton Delaval mare Elegance to Sydney to be mated with imported Bronzino. She missed. The fee was then fifty guineas. The mare was sent again at an increased fee of 100 guineas, and the result was a chestnut filly, thick-set and of substance, but with less quality than might have been expected. Having bred the filly, it is her owner's intention to race her himself, but whether she will come early or be tried for next spring racing has not yet been decided. She is said to take after Bronzino in colour, and it is from that horse she gets a deal of her substance. If she is only as good as her granddam, Antelope, the price of her cost will not have been spent in vain. She should make a fine brood mare in time to carry on her line, perhaps better than any other of the female descendants of Miss Kate, who was a prolific and successful breeder of good ones, of which Prime Warden, Sultan, and the much-raced Antelope (dam of Bluejacket, thrice winner of the Auckland Cup) were shining examples.