

The weather for the Clifden R.C.'s annual meeting this week was unfavourable, and there was only a moderate attendance, while the totalisator figures showed a slight falling off of £282, as compared with last season's returns. Unless the sky is clear and the roads in good order this back-blocks gathering can hardly hope to succeed, as visitors have to travel long distances to reach the scene of operations, while the country around about is yet too sparsely settled to enable the local residents to make a success of the outing on their own account.

H. G. Coker, the latest addition to the ranks of local trainers, is not hurrying his charges along in the meantime, but Aycliffe is one of his active brigade, and a novice, in Muzzle, by Calibre—Walda, is going on the right way.

A very promising cross-country horse from P. T. Hegan's establishment, viz., Palladio, by Pallas—Don Pedro mare, won both steeplechase events at the Clifden R.C. meeting. He is not a finished fencer, but knows how to jump effectively, and it is not too much to expect of him that a good race will fall to his share during the late fall or winter months.

The Waiata Cup, the principal event of the Clifden R.C. fixture, was won by Spanish Princess, a daughter of Canrobert, who appears to stay where her full-brother Buller cannot get beyond six furlongs good, or seven furlongs at a pinch. Her dam, Tugela, was a fair stayer, but, so far, has been known in stud circles as a mother of sprinters. The hurdle horse Peerless was expected to try out Spanish Princess over the ten furlongs comprising the Cup contest, but he failed badly.

Mohawk had not much difficulty in scoring in the Farewell Handicap over a solitary opponent, in Maraekoa, and the race was principally interesting as showing that the imported horse has some pretensions to develop as useful over other than sprint distances.

## WANGANUI.

Wanganui J.C.'s Excellent Nominations—Notes on the Foxton R.C.'s Gathering—A. Hall's Trio for Hawera.

WANGANUI, Monday.

The nominations received by the Wanganui Jockey Club for its autumn meeting, to be held on the 22nd and 24th February, show a falling off in numbers compared with last year, but at the same time all the events have filled very well except the hurdles, and in the principal events the quality of the horses engaged is of the very best. In the Cup, for instance, quite a number of the best performers in the Dominion are engaged, including Colonel Sault, Bee, Depredation, Indigo, Rangitiro, Egypt, Housewife, Rewi Poto, and others.

Colonel Sault won last year's Wanganui Cup like a racehorse, and it will be interesting to see how he will shape this year. It is said he is in splendid fettle, and if so he should take no end of beating.

Depredation has had an easy time since returning from the north, but the Auckland Cup winner is expected to be at his best for the Wanganui Cup.

The entrants for the Flying comprise many of the finest sprinters in the land, and the winner will take a lot of picking.

Messrs. Walsh and Quarterman have both Lady Middleton and Tyson engaged at the Wanganui meeting. The report that Lady Middleton had been sold on the West Coast turns out to be incorrect.

The entries for the hurdle events at the Wanganui meeting are very disappointing, seven being the main on the first day and nine on the second day. This is a very poor response for the good stakes offered, and the club would no doubt get much bigger fields if a couple of open welters were substituted.

Starengo scored a couple of wins at the Foxton meeting, and in both cases he won in good style. He has shown consistently fine form in most of his races, and now that he has started winning he may soon be heard of again. He is trained by A. Rayner, who had him in excellent fettle.

Interlude carried a lot of Wanganui money in her races at Foxton, but she displayed none of the dash expected of her, a third being the best she could do. She will probably be seen to more advantage at the Egmont meeting, as she is looking and going really well.

The performance put up by Kurapai in running a dead-heat with Ladify

in the Foxton Cup led to the Papanui gelding being entered for the Wanganui Cup, in which he may run a big race, as he is fairly fast, and is a fine stayer, which is more than can be said for some of those entered.

Local racing enthusiasts were pleased to see Haupai win a race at Foxton, as she is owned by Mr. T. S. Bristol, one of the most popular of sportsmen, and is trained by W. Rayner. She had run well on several occasions, but without any luck until she landed the Maiden last week.

A. Hall intends taking Master Lupin, Moulou, and Combustion to Hawera tomorrow. The former gelding is engaged in the Cup at 7.10, and should be very hard to beat, as he is in excellent form. He went stale before the Stratford meeting, but has freshened up again, and appears to be at his best now. The topweight, Egypt, will probably be favourite, but he will need to do his very best to beat Master Lupin if the latter is in the humour.

Moulou has been allowed to drop out of his first day's engagements at Hawera, but will probably be started in the hurdles the second day. Combustion is going well and ought to run prominently in the hurdles on Wednesday.

F. Tilley is taking Gaug Awa and Pohehe to Hawera. Both are in capital nick, and it will be no surprise to find them amongst the winners at the meeting.

## CANTERBURY.

Comely's Craven Plate Engagement—Week End to be Given Lengthy Spell—C.J.C. Midsummer Handicap Prospects—Desert Gold's Next Public Appearance—Recent Additions to M. Hobbs' Team—Oxenhope's Probable Victory at Trentham—Latest Track Work at Riccarton—Snub Gallops Attractively.

CHRISTCHURCH, Monday.

All the Riccarton horses that raced at Trentham have returned home. The most successful of them was Adjutant, who, after performing indifferently in the Wellington Cup, came out and made an exhibition of his field in the Wellington racing club handicap on the second day. The son of Martian is anything but an everyday horse, and apparently is unreliable.

Comely ran two very sound races at Trentham, but found the company just a bit too good for her. Comely's next effort will be in the Craven Plate at Riccarton on Saturday, and she is bound to put up a good race.

After racing at Trentham, Week End was decidedly sore in front, and is to be given a lengthy spell. Subsequently her owner will decide whether the English-bred mare goes into work again or retires to the stud. She should make an excellent brood mare, for she is bred the right way.

The summer meeting of the Canterbury Jockey Club, which takes place on Saturday next, is exciting little interest, as there is a lack of outside competition in most of the events. On Wellington form, Adjutant should give a good account of himself in the Midsummer Handicap if caught in a generous humour, but that is always doubtful. On recent showings he seems to have the better of it with Snub, whose form has not been good since the spring. Margerine may be troubled by the distance, which is just beyond her liking, but Slogan can be relied on to run out a very solid mile and a-half with only 7.9 in the saddle. There is nothing attractive about the prospects of Honesty and Rose Pink, though the racing the former did at Wellington is likely to improve her.

It is reported that Desert Gold's next public appearance will be in the C.J.C. Challenge Stakes at Riccarton next autumn. As Biplane and Hymenestra, the two best two-year-olds of the season, are engaged in the same event, the champion mare should be thoroughly tried out.

Two of Mr. Greenwood's team in Bimeter and Greenstreet went on to Egmont after the Trentham meeting, where the former claims an engagement in the Egmont Stakes. A meeting between Bimeter, Bisogne and Estland should provide a very attractive contest.

G. Matthews, who trains for Mr. J. B. Reid, at Oamaru, is at present located at Riccarton with Honesty and Kilboyne, and both horses will be seen out on Saturday next. After the C.J.C. fixture, Matthews returns to Oamaru with his charges.

M. Hobbs is again located at Riccarton with several of Mr. W. G.

Stead's horses in his stable. Two recent additions to Hcbbs' string are the two-year-old brother to Kilboyn and a Boniform two-year-old.

The tracks at Riccarton have got very hard again as the result of the dry weather, and are badly in need of a soaking for Saturday's meeting. If this does not come there are sure to be heavy defections from the already small fields.

A recent addition to T. Sheenan's team is a shapely two-year-old colt by Nautiform from Passion. The juvenile already gives a good deal of promise in his tasks.

Mr. A. W. Rutherford has engaged Daytime, Samisen and Furling at the Marlborough meeting, where the opposition will be much weaker than that encountered at Trentham.

The connections of Oxenhope are reported to have thrown in for a big win over the gelding's success on the last day of the Trentham meeting. He was solidly supported in all betting centres, and quite justified the confidence reposed in him.

Some rather interesting work was got through at Riccarton on Saturday by horses claiming engagements at the C.J.C. summer meeting. Biplane and Adom were associated in a gallop over five furlongs. The former, who is very well at present, had the better of the trial, which took 1min. 4 1-5sec. After doing a round at slow pace, Margerine put in a solid mile, finishing up the last five furlongs at top. Gamecock got over five furlongs nicely in 1min. 4sec., Petruccio keeping him company over the last half-mile.

Honesty, who looks none the worse for her efforts at Trentham, went a couple of rounds at half pace.

Bee had the assistance of Matty over the last part of a seven-furlong gallop, which the Martian mare traversed in 1min. 31sec. Though not yet at her best, Bee is improving fast.

Snub, with Mussen in the saddle, registered an attractive performance over a mile and a-half, which he cast behind in 2min. 38 2-5sec. He had the company of Briar Patch over the last mile, which took 1min. 45sec.

Kilmeny sprinted half a mile in 50 3-5sec., and Sartorze cast seven furlongs behind in 1min. 30 2-5sec.

Bore and Bomb were companions in a brush over half a mile, which occupied 52 1-5secs.

## HAWKE'S BAY.

Local Representatives Notch Thirteen Victories at Trentham—Gold Shot's Gisborne Engagements—Form Up's Promising Displays at Wellington Meeting—Chortle Reported for Sale.

NAPIER, Monday.

The local representatives who were seen out in action at Trentham were responsible for a deal of the cleaning-up process as regards the stake money distribution, for the Hawke's Bay-bred gee-gees captured thirteen firsts, or more than half of the number of events listed. The stay-at-home backers here all made money over the gathering, and on that account have pleasurable recollections of the 1917 summer meeting of the Wellington Racing Club.

The Hon. J. D. Ormond has leased Hymeneas to Mr. J. O'Neill, of Hastings.

Piro Piro is the name that has been selected for the foal son of Merry Moments and Carnelian. The youngster, who is owned by Mr. J. W. White, owner of Trials, is a half-brother to Projectile.

Gold Shot, who had to be placed on the retired list for a short period through meeting with a slight mishap while competing in the Hack Scurry on the second day of the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's New Year meeting, is now all right again, and he has left for Gisborne. Provided he runs up to track form the son of Gold Reef should not return from his mission empty handed.

Hymenestra, who scored so decisively in his three attempts at Trentham, was bred by his owner, the Hon. J. D. Ormond, at his breeding establishment at Karamu. On the dam's side Hymenestra goes back to the Musket infusion, for his greatdam, Elflock, was a daughter of Nordenfeldt (son of Musket) and Elfin, and the latter was a daughter of Musket. It can therefore be seen that Hymenestra's descent on the female side is marked by close inbreeding in the third and fourth removes. Apparently the consanguinity in those periods has had no damaging effect upon the powers of the Hon. J. D. Ormond's colt.

Formative, who has been a long time overdue in the production of something of a class—for he is such a beautifully-got stallion that good results were expected from him—has at last landed the goods in Form Up. This three-year-old put up an attractive showing at Trentham, for out of three tries he landed the stake on a couple of occasions and a second placing came his way in the other effort. Form Up is a half-brother to Gold Thread (dam of Gold Fool and Simonides), Auratus and God Purse.

Swinton, who proved victorious in both of the jewellery events at Wairoa, is a five-year-old gelding by Birkenhead—Camelot. He runs in the nomination of Mr. G. C. Ormond, whose father bred him. Backers of Swinton in his first victory had to wait a bit to get their dividends, as an inquiry was held on the course into the running of the race. It was then adjourned to the evening, and after a wearisome sitting another put-off took place to the following morning, when the verdict went up to pay out on Swinton. They are extra fond of meetings, the stewards of the Wairoa County Racing Club, and they apparently took the opportunity of indulging in their weakness during the progress of their annual race meeting.

D. Wilkinson is at present engaged breaking in several youngsters for Mr. G. P. Donnelly. A more wise selection for this task than "Donny" (as he is designated by his acquaintances) could not possibly be made, for he has patience and firmness in the handling of the baby thoroughbreds. In the early stages of their education equines are either made or marred, and it's a certainty that if Wilkinson repeats his previous excellent work in this direction the Crissoge-bred young 'uns will be turned out finished in style.

Chortle is reported to be for sale, and several would-be owners are apparently anxious to become possessed of the Multifid gelding. So far no business has resulted from the enquiries made.

Shaki is under orders to leave for Taumarunui, where he will be seen out in action at the annual fixture of the Taumarunui Racing Club. His connections had a good win over his victory in the Stewards' Hack Handicap on the first day of the late Wairoa meeting. As he has not won a race since last Easter Monday, it can truly be said that the annexation did not arrive before its time.

D. Munn, who has of late been kept well in the limelight through the wins achieved by Sea Lord, is at present an inmate of the Napier Hospital, suffering from rheumatism and some inward trouble.

Galore, who finished second to Form Up in the Camp Handicap at Trentham last Monday, was bred at Longlands by Mr. E. J. Watt. She is a three-year-old daughter of All Black and Orlay, and as a youngster was sold to her present owner, Mr. A. Cameron. Orlay is an Australian-bred mare, by Royal Artillery—Oralene, by Lochiel—Herbina, and, therefore, it is no fancy painting to assert that Galore can boast of strains of blood of the best.

Mr. P. Duignan, the late owner of Bunting, is casting about for another gee-gee to carry his colours, and it is to be hoped that the wishes of so ardent a follower of the sport will shortly be fulfilled.

The Taranaki Jockey Club's summer meeting commences on Thursday next. The weights appear to-day and the acceptances to-morrow. The Auckland horses engaged are Glendalough, Luperino, Ring Lupin, Rockfield, Lady Penury, Housewife, Pendoo, Thrace and Signo.

For the Wanganui Jockey Club's autumn meeting the nominations numerically and in the matter of class are very good. There are twenty-three in the Cup and twenty-five in the Flying Handicap and a like number in the Petre Hack Handicap. Auckland horses entered are Rockfield, Tararu Jack, Colonel Sault, Agnestes, Thrace and Housewife.

## WANTED.

STUD GROOM.

NOT ELIGIBLE FOR BALLOT.

GOOD WAGES.

Send References to

GERALD STEAD,

Amberley,  
Canterbury.