

## RACING REVIEWED

### AUCKLAND RACING CLUB.

#### GREAT NORTHERN WINTER MEETING.

#### GLADFUL WINS THE GREAT NORTHERN HURDLES.

#### RED RIBBON THE CORNWALL HANDICAP.

The weather was perfect on Saturday for the opening of the Auckland R.C.'s Great Northern meeting. There had been no day like it for over a week, and it was pleasing to see the sun's rays early in the morning. City folk rolled out in their full strength, and of visitors from everywhere there were a good few, and many in khaki—some who have been to the front and done their bit, some who are on final leave, and a few who have the luck never to miss an Auckland race meeting. We noticed many familiar faces amongst the visitors, and missed a few of the regulars from their wonted places.

There may have been a shrinkage in the attendance, but if so it was not marked. In the ordinary course of events increases from meeting to meeting are looked for in a populous city and district like Auckland, and no doubt there would have been more present had the special train service not been withdrawn and the trams been able to cope with more of the traffic. We met many who walked from parts of the city and suburbs extending to distances of over five miles, and some of them may have been amongst the number that walked back, as many did. Lovers of racing are not easily deterred from pursuing their favourite pastime.

Remembering that May had been the wettest May month that the oldest inhabitant in Auckland had knowledge of—and the records have been kept for over 63 years—it is not to be wondered at that the Ellerslie course, which is not four miles in a direct line from the heart of the city, where the records are taken, received its fair share of the many downpours. The course was well soaked, but a few days makes a big difference, and thirty hours without rain before the business of the day commenced left the ground in good, safe condition, holding and against fast time though it was. This will be judged from the report which follows.

The racing was interesting in each department, flat and jumping, but more particularly owing to there being comparatively few falls. There were good finishes in several of the events, but in quite a number of instances the first and second horses showed up the opposition at their weights in a very unattractive light. It was a case of the unexpected happening in a good many of the events, but while good dividends resulted during the afternoon, either to first or second winners, some of the actual first, second and third favourites ran really well, two firsts winning and others getting inside the money.

Though many thought the ground would be against the topweights, quite a number ran conspicuously well. Visiting horses once again had much the best of the deal in the way of stake earnings, the plums of the big cake and other ingredients going to supporters of racing from outside provinces or districts away from headquarters. There was the element of luck in at least one or two instances, where the placings might have been different but for happenings in running and falls. To commence with, Czaronus, who may not have won with his 10lb. penalty, in the Maiden Steeplechase, for which there were seven withdrawals, was kept so far out and ridden with so little judgment, as to suggest that he would have at least disputed pride of place with the two leaders, The Channel and Cokely, who finished first and second after a good race, Ulster, who got galloped on and a heel cut, being third.

Manson had had two falls in a few days with Czaronus, and this made him extra careful in the handling of his mount, and in pronouncing judgment on his display of horsemanship one should always remember such circumstances. The stewards considered a caution quite sufficient to meet the case, and took the fair view. Czaronus' owner was not satisfied with the handling of his horse, and asked the stewards to hold an enquiry before the stpendiary steward had had time to enter a similar request. This is the right thing for an owner to do. The Channel is trained by Kos Heaton, and the veteran, who was riding over forty years ago, and has

trained a good many winners of jumping and flat races, is to be congratulated on his return of luck after a long run of outs. The Channel was a show jumper and hunter before Heaton purchased him for his present owner, and he is a fine fencer. Ulster, next to Czaronus, was the best of the runners.

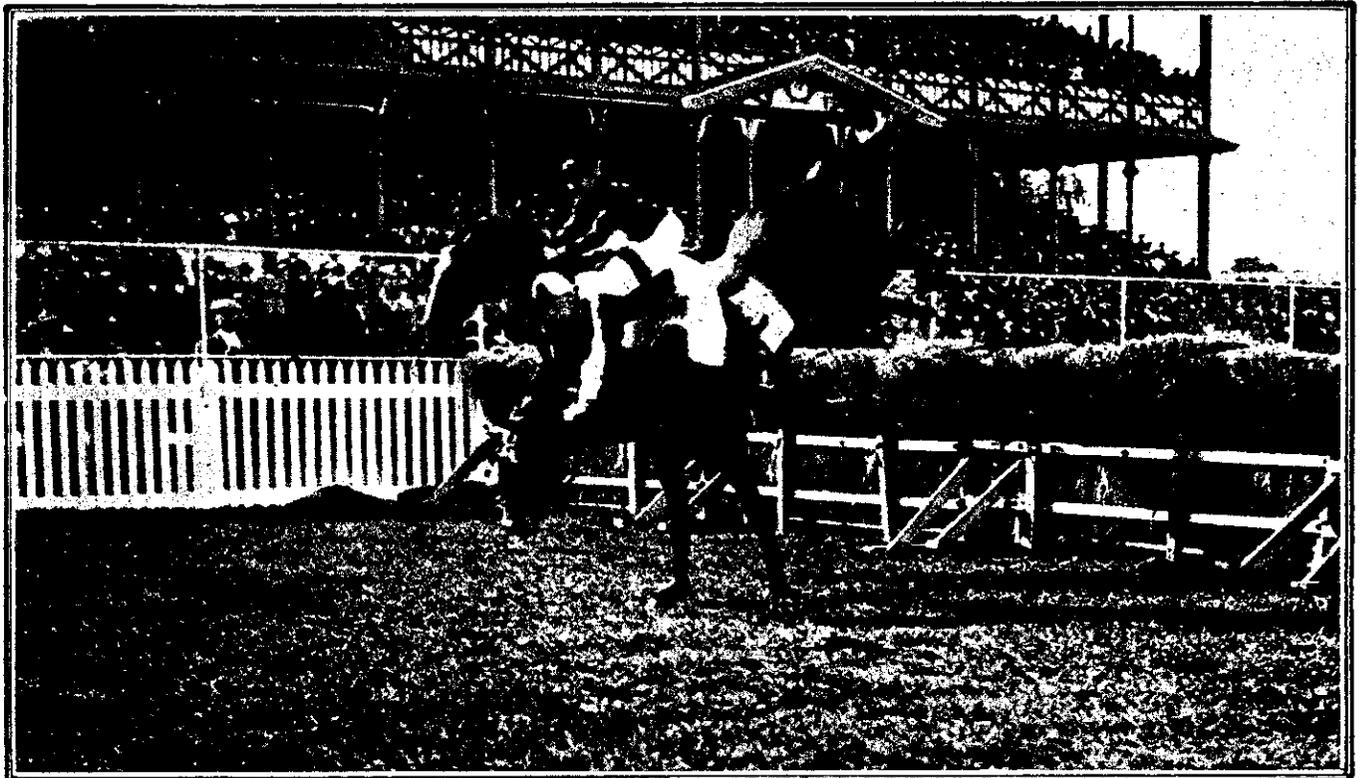
There was a field of twenty-seven for the Jervois Handicap, and the topweight, Parisian Diamond, by Charlemagne II. from Hope Diamond, a four-year-old gelding hailing from Hawke's Bay, was favourite. The locally-trained pair Fabriquette and Silvasco, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Patterson, respectively, of the Commonwealth, were coupled, and were the next best supported. Victory rested with another visitor, however, Mr. J. Hawkins, from Taranaki, winning with the Campfire gelding Flying Camp, who was third in request, and won some money for visitors from that quarter, who backed him. Parisian Diamond's supporters got a bit beside their own. Corregidor, second topweight, proved the best of the Auckland lot by running third, though he was five lengths behind the second, which does not make those behind look good, as most of them were receiving liberal allowances. The field was a bit unwieldy, and though the minimum was 8.0 there were a few overweights.

So much had been heard of the Hon. J. D. Ormond's Hylans, and the four-year-old son of Hymettus and Temerity looked so good and is so much better bred than the majority of the field, which at least some race-

ner and always a slug, a bit better in demand than Te Onga, Waimai and Fisher. Te Onga has probably been more often favourite than any other of the starters with the Auckland public, and a win with 9.0 in 1914, and a second last year to El Gallo, helped to keep him still in favour. Waimai, a steeplechaser, really seemed wasted in a race of this kind, and Fisher, though looked upon as a sure winner if he were to keep his legs, did not enjoy the full confidence of even those who did support him. Again it has to be said of him that he might have won had he not fallen. It was the last fence that proved his undoing, too, and there he certainly did look like beating St. Elmn, another long-time unlucky member of the great Ouda family, the same family as Fisher comes from. It was not to be for either, however, as Tararu Jack also fell in Fisher's track, and this left an opening for Gladful, whom Bush had tried to push through several times, and he got up, and catching St. Elmn a few strides from the post won by a good head. Te Onga was not in the picture, and the judge said was ten lengths away, and we can let it go at that, though they were not ordinary lengths. Waimai was only just beaten for third money, and Guiding Way, who led for nearly half the distance, was fifth, and then came Sir Solo, the favourite, who ran like a bullock and jumped too slow, for lack of faster schooling perhaps, and appeared to need a lot more wak-

the staying and quality comes from his dam's sire, Seaton Delaval. St. Elmn, whom he defeated, is a half-brother to the Auckland Cup winner Mahutonga, and there have been lots of Cup winners from the Ouida line. The time, 5min. 2secs., shows how dead the course was. The last half-mile was the fastest, and staying won.

The absence of Bisogne from the Cornwall Handicap came not altogether unexpectedly, as many thought he would likely be reserved for a shorter race, but Colonel Soult was an eleventh hour withdrawal that hurt pre-post backers and many who were preparing to support him at the post, as he had been galloping well, albeit with a light impost up. He came over to take part, but it is presumed trod on a stone and bruised one of his feet on the way, and, walking lame, he was at once scratched. Then backers went for Hopfield and made the son of Malster a better favourite than the topweight, Toatere, Red Ribbon, who had a good pull in weight from both, being also well supported, and she won after a good race from the Marble Arch gelding Uncle Ned. Toatere finished last, and Hopfield and Housewife each appeared to find the distance, in the going, a bit too far for them. Housewife and Hopfield were responsible for the pace. We were always prepared for a win from El Gallo for this event, but schooling over country is not a preparation that many horses wanted on the flat will be improved by, and it was only in the last stages of the race that El Gallo was seen to advantage.



GREY GUARD (E. Copestake) comes to grief while leading ROYAL PATRON (A. Gordon) at the double brush in the Hack Steeplechase (two miles).

goers take into account, that he finished up favourite in the Maiden Hurdle Race, despite his weight—and a big lot of dead weight, too; not good business in dead or heavy going. He failed, and like the rest of the field had never a ghost of a chance with Penniless, who was an outsider. The last-named raced clean away from the fourteen other starters, winning by a margin of quite ten lengths, which was never less, or much less, after the first hurdle was jumped; indeed, it might easily have been more had E. R. Reid, his rider, let him run on.

Penniless, who is by Penury from Folly, comes of family No. 2, the same family away back as Hylans, and is a half-brother to Waikato, Raurahua, Waipuna (a good all-round performer on the flat and over hurdles), and to Waiaatarua, dam of Corregidor, who was third in the preceding race. Gluetanus and Ditto, who were second and third, are members also of families that have provided us with useful horses, but class was not conspicuous, and if Hylans had not nearly come down twice he might have got second, and Iceberg, who was fifth, and who also nearly came to grief, might have got third. Prince Soult is the only one outside of the winner and Hylans that we count as a possibility, but he is so sour at times that he may not pay his way as a jumper, though it is early yet to write him out.

The Great Northern Hurdle Race is always a good betting race. This year backers were undecided what to go for most, but weight of money left Sir Solo, an Auckland Cup win-

ing up. Perhaps he is hard to ride—he gives that impression. Tenacious looked too small and out of place in the company, and with the weight, and perhaps getting a heavy bump when he was cannoned into on the track on Thursday by Billy Wiggs, helped to prevent him doing better.

Marconi pulled up after going five furlongs, some of his gear having given way, but he appeared to be stopping at the same stage, as he did on a former occasion when he slipped his friends up. He does not like the course. Thrace wants more experience, Spalperion looked bright and big but did not race as well as his lenient impost would have led some to expect, and the Southern gelding Cast Iron, whose first appearance it was on the Ellerslie course, is too long-bodied for heavy going, and seemed to be in his wrong place and company on Saturday, and the only ones that were behind him were Thrace, Tenacious and Spalperion. Tararu Jack was Auckland's best representative in the race, and had they all stood up there would still have been a long gap between Gladful, St. Elmn, Fisher and Tararu Jack and Mr. Brown's representative. Of course some of those behind Gladful and St. Elmn might perhaps have been nearer than they were, as most of the riders must have given up all hope of being in the first four. The winner, Gladful, is by Birkenhead from Gladisla, full-sister to Gladsome, winner of nearly as much money and more good races in her time than any other of her sex in Australasia. Gladful never looked more solid and bright, and we can say with confidence that a lot of

He came along in the run home with his usual finishing style and got third, the weight being in his favour as compared with Housewife, and it was the distance that favoured him as against Hopfield, who may do better over a shorter course when the going is firmer. It took 2min. 17 3-5sec. to run the mile and a-quarter. Lady Penury did not seem able to act in the going, and Dancaaster was not seen at his best, either.

Tinoroto looked the best of good things on past form and at the weights for the Hunt Club Hurdles, and carried more than was invested on Merry Dan and Spalspire together. Neither had any chance with him. It was left for Tangihaeri to keep him company for a mile or more, and for the much-improved Dunrobin, and better-bred of the field, to take him along for the last mile, but it was of no avail, for Tinoroto, who is racing for his soldier owner, Sergt. Holbecke, who is in France, came away and won easily by four lengths, Dunrobin swerving over towards the judge's box. Jacaranda, a big son of Captain Webb, of unknown breeding on his dam's side, being twenty lengths away, with the very tired, but good jumper, Tangihaeri fourth.

The business of the day was concluded with the Members' Handicap, for which there were twenty-three runners, the aged grey gelding Bluestone, by Bluelight, being made nearly a £300 better favourite than Croesus, the half-brother to Desert Gold and Egypt, Hyginas coming after the pair named, much less liberally supported, with Cardrona, Tact and Ring Lupia best backed of the others. Bluestone