

AVONDALE JOCKEY CLUB.

SPRING MEETING.

The racing season will be opened in the Auckland province at Avondale on Saturday next. If we may judge from the large acceptances for the handicap races and the indications for the two classic races there will be a most entertaining day's sport to commence with. There are plenty of two-year-olds, three-year-olds and older horses in the different class races on the flat, and in the Hurdle Race and Steeplechase on the same day there is a good array of jumping material, including some beginners, or horses that have hitherto done little in public. Racegoers will hardly need to be reminded that they will need to consider how they will get there and back. There are no special trains, so it can be taken for granted that the ordinary ones which leave the city and suburban stations in the usual course will be well patronised by those who can get away so early. The trams to the Mount Albert terminus will, likewise, be well freighted, and the conveyances of all kinds which are to meet the trams there. Those that leave the city will be fully utilised, and doubtless some racegoers will walk some stages on the roads leading to the now popular tryst and for the time adapt themselves to the altered conditions of affairs in the railway service.

So large are the acceptances for the first race on the card, the Maiden Handicap, that the advisableness of starting the horses in two divisions will have to be considered. Thirty-four is too big a field for a six furlong race on any circular course that we know of in New Zealand, let alone on the mile course at Avondale. Of the candidates working at Ellerslie Woody Glen, Riga, Stilts (both in the same stable), Step and Backfire are amongst the ones that have put in some of the most speedy gallops. It is like trying to pick the proverbial needle from the hay stack to sort out a good thing. No doubt certain horsemen will have their followings. A good deal attaches to riding in these big fields.

There are a dozen in the Grey Lynn Hurdle Race, and no doubt many will be disposed to accept the form of Gluetanus at Gisborne as evidence of improvement and give him support. He does not incur a penalty, but while he would appear to hold Master Timi safe on Gisborne form there are others who may come in for solid support. Though Marconi has not been doing any schooling, the fact that he has been galloping fast, though with a light weight up, is sure to cause him to have a lot of friends. Tenacious looks a better horse for his trip away, and should be equal to doing as well as ever he did in this country. It is no disadvantage that he, like Gluetanus, has raced recently. Sylvan Knight's jumping should help him a long way on the road and he is an improving sort, while Dancastor, with the constant practice he has had, should be coming nearer to a winning stage. Takanini occasionally shows a bit of form when least expected, and it is not safe to let him run unbacked, though he may do better as the season advances.

There is a possibility at the time of writing of a field of 17 starting for the Avondale Cup, a capital acceptance. One of those engaged, Colonnade, is in two other races on the same day and has incurred a penalty of 7lb for her win at Gisborne. Chortle and Colonel Soult have only to run up to their form of last year in the same race to finish very close together again. Toa Tere, who is receiving 5lb from Chortle and conceding 5lb to Colonel Soult, only found one better than himself at the weights in the Waverley-Waitotara Cup, carrying as he did 9.9 there, or 5lb more than he has in this race, reads likely to contest every inch of the ground with the other top weights. It does not look likely that Analogue, who was unplaced at Waverley at the same relative difference, can have any show, though he has galloped as fast or faster than he did before he ran at Waverley. On the other hand, Golden Grafton, who finished within a length and a-half of Toa Tere at a difference of 28lb, has now a 5lb advantage in the weights by comparison, and he should be handy on that showing. Cynic, the imported horse, now five years old, is decidedly well in with 6.7, and he only missed the Spring Handicap, over the same distance, at Gisborne last week, carrying 22lb more and should be a tough

proposition for this race. Hythread was third in the Spring Handicap at Gisborne with 8.5, and as he has 10lb less now that would appear to give him a good chance also and he may be preferred to Colonnade, in the same ownership. Mullingar, if right at his best, might run prominently, but he has all his work cut out with 8.6. Kauri King appears pretty well, and with 7.12 looks likely to run the race of his career, and he was staying on in his races last season. Rebel, on the strength of his Great Northern Derby showing last January in a false run race, was a bit over-rated directly afterwards by the weight adjusters and the public, but now he seems to be treated, if anything, a bit on the lenient side, seeing that he is expected to improve between three and four years. He ran a bit unkindly more than once, however. There should be a good race in Mr. Hannon's colt this year with no more than 7.9 on his back. Glenopal has given patchy displays on occasion, and when he was handicapped at 6.7 and carried 7.10 and ran away with the President's Handicap at the last A.R.C. autumn meeting over a mile and a-quarter, and on a previous occasion won over a mile and a furlong at Avondale, he showed a bit of staying form. We would not be surprised to find Mr. Hannon starting both Rebel and Glenopal, and if he should do so we will

or any better than some that may meet him a week later at Ellerslie in the Welcome Stakes over five furlongs, it can be taken for granted that he will go out first favourite at Avondale and give his supporters a good run for their money.

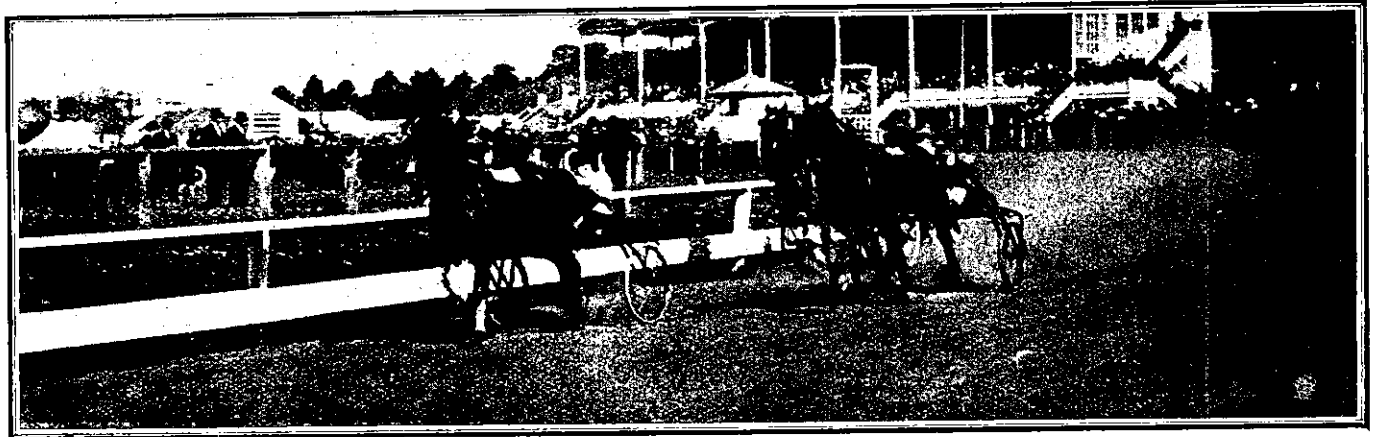
There are 15 out of 16 left in the Hack and Hunters' Steeplechase. If Spalperion is in form he should have a big show, but he never seemed to get over a gruelling race he had over the same course when he was not fit to stand it. It looks a very open race, and is a long way so early in the season for the hacks and hunters, few of which were "stripped for a trot within sight of the hounds" this season. The Channel jumps well, but we are afraid may not stay. Perhaps Ulster, Simple Sam and Dunrobin may be as handy on the course as any others.

The Henderson Handicap may see Colonnade (if started), Lady Bruce or Munster in an attractive light. Empire, Regio, Sleepy Jack and Slipstitch read as well as any in the Hack Handicap, and the last-named is a recent winner.

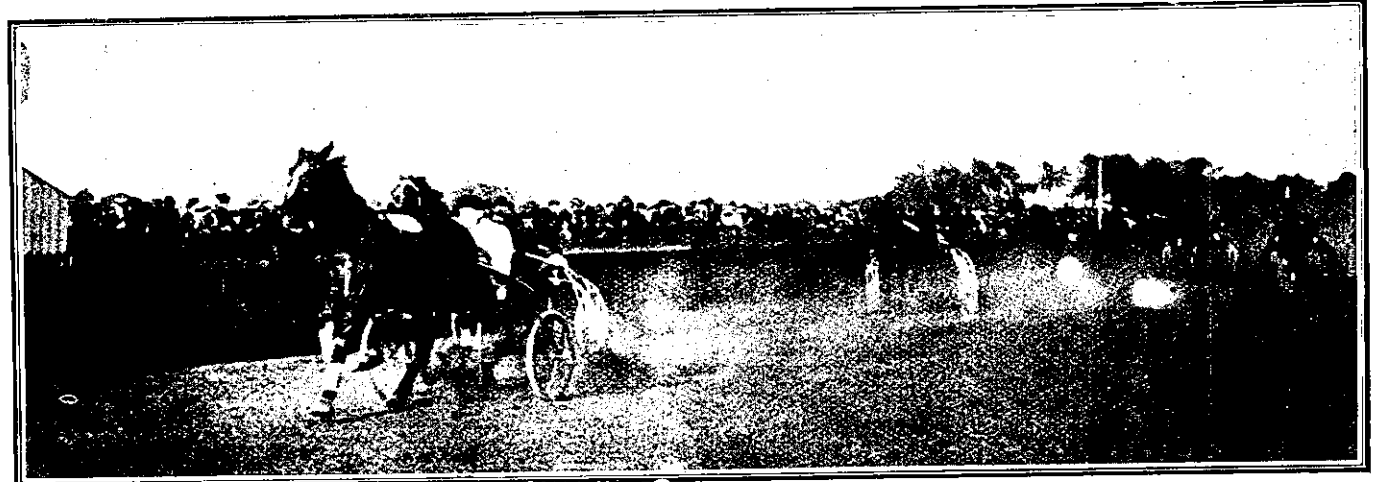
King Lupin would need to be as good as ever to have a winning chance in the Flying Handicap. Hopfield and Mill o' Gowrie are each well placed, and the first-named and Mr. Hannon's pair will be well supported, if coupled. Vagabond has proved so useful and consistent that

- D. Copperfield's b c Oliver Twist, by Marble Arch—Integrity
- T. W. Cotton's (junr.) b c Delysian, by Elysian—Delania
- G. M. Currie's br c Windorah, by King Rufus—Condamine
- J. Davis' b f, by Marble Arch—Lady Nivelle
- A. W. Gilles' b f Kawaha, by Rokeby—Ailsa
- L. J. Hyde's b f Lady Petain, by General Latour—Jena
- W. Kemp's br f Mary Bruce, by Robert the Bruce—Miss Ethel
- D. J. Lynch's b c Templemore, by Marble Arch—Sweet Alice
- W. K. Morrison's b f, by Carl Rosa—Miss Election
- O. C. McGee's b c, by Master Soult—Biddy Curran
- Frank Ross' br c, by Marble Arch—Salute
- J. Corry's br c Pitch Dark, by All Black—Nocturnum
- T. J. B. and David Stewart's blk f Demoiselle, by Demosthenes—Golden Ball
- H. Swaffield's blk c Marble Top, by Marble Arch—Lady Bobs
- A. B. Williams' b f Star Glow, by Martian—Fire Queen
- E. W. Allison's (junr.) b f Hineamuru, by Poseidon—Forfar Gal
- E. W. Allison's (junr.) ch f Taiaamal, by The Nut—Lady Molly
- A. W. Beveridge's br f Demona, by Demosthenes—Etona
- J. Bull's blk f, by Demosthenes—Willow Bank
- W. and V. Casey's ch c Informal, by Demosthenes—Formality
- C. Dawson's ch f, by King Rufus—Carmania

HACK AND HUNTERS' STEEPLCHASE, about three miles.—Ulster 10.11, The Channel 10.9, Simple Sam 10.2, Spalperion 9.13, Ingenkender 9.12, Captain Lock 9.11, Dunrobin 9.11, Glenhow 9.7, Miss Queen 9.7, Glenburn 9.7, Grey



TIM DOOLAN (W. Abbott) leading ASTURIO (N. Cunningham), PEARL D'OR and LIEUTENANT going out of the straight the first time in the National Handicap (two miles) at the Otahuhu T.C.'s spring meeting.



THE FINISH OF THE MASSEY HANDICAP (1½ MILES) AT THE OTAHUHU TROTTING CLUB'S SPRING MEETING—TIM DOOLAN (W. Abbott) wins from WAVERLEY (T. Richards), with KEMPSEY (J. T. Paul) third.

be prepared to see them both run well. Bingham is galloping very nicely at headquarters, and is the only three-year-old engaged. He bids fair to run well. He is in the Henderson Handicap as well. Uncle Ned is trained at Avondale and may be expected to run a good race there, as he did last autumn. He could not well have received any more weight than he has, having regard to the company he has met previously. Sir Ralph picked up some races last fall, and there is reason to believe that he is now better than ever he was. Neither Thrace nor Coral King could have received less weight. Both are winners and on appearances look like horses that should do better than they have. Welters and jumping events may prove more in their line. Chortle galloped fast over six furlongs on Tuesday morning, and seems very well. He will likely run a sterling race.

There were 22 in the Avondale Stakes after the last forfeit was declared. If half the number go to the post that will be all. Informal is the only one that has started in public of those likely to compete, and his two races give him a distinct pull over the others in the matter of education. That counts very largely with two-year-olds. Informal has come back better than he went away to Wellington, and though he may not be really so much better than several of the others that will start

he will have a good following. Astor is another visitor that will have friends, and Kitty Bellairs having shown all her old pace lately will be backed on the off chance of seeing out the six furlongs. Arran has had trusted too often since he beat Desert Gold at two years old over six furlongs, but has been galloping very well of late. Loyal Arch, who, in the same spring, was voted Auckland's best two-year-old, should have some sort of show, if she has any pretensions to form now. The following is the first day's programme:—

- MAIDEN HANDICAP, six furlongs.—Stilts 9.0, Sylvasco 8.13, Riga 8.12, Lough Ennell 8.11, Campaign 8.10, All Talk 8.9, Wainera 8.8, Persian Prince 8.8, Ma Copper 8.8, Step 8.8, Elysian Rose 8.8, Hester Soult 8.8, Soldiers' Queen 8.8, Glen Crispin 8.8, Aralune 8.8, Backfire 8.6, Keep Watch 8.4, Blue Cross 8.4, White Sox 8.4, Woody Glen 8.3, Mentmore 8.3, Revenue 8.3, Sea Prince 8.3, Gold Kip 8.3, Multino 8.3, Novation 8.2, Monatour 8.1, Piupiu 8.1, Winning Lady 8.1, Miss Leslie 8.1, Moneymoon 8.1, Rock Diamond 8.1, Carmen Sylva 8.1, Scottish Queen 8.1.
- GREY LYNN HURDLE RACE, two miles.—Te Onga 11.3, Master Timi 10.11, Marconi 10.8, Tenacious 10.5, Marton 9.13, Gluetanus 9.9, Takanini 9.9, Dancastor 9.8, Spalperion 9.0, Sylvan Knight 9.0, Swastika 9.0, Joss 9.0.
- AVONDALE CUP, one mile and a-quarter.—Chortle 9.9, Toa Tere 9.4, Colonel Soult 8.13, Mullingar 8.6, Analogue 7.13, Kauri King 7.12, Rebel 7.9, Hythread 7.9, Glenopal 7.7, Bingham 7.5, Uncle Ned 7.2, Golden Grafton 6.13, Sir Ralph 6.8, Thrace 6.7, Cynic 6.7, Colonnade 6.7, Coral King 6.7.
- AVONDALE STAKES, Four furlongs.—S. C. Caulton's b f, by Carl Rosa—Mottle

- Star 9.7, Kingsford 9.7, Maisonette 9.7, Grey Ghurka 9.7, Tuhua 9.7.
- HENDERSON HANDICAP, seven furlongs.—Tinopai 8.13, Glenroy 8.12, Scottish Knight 8.3, Bingham 8.5, Melchilloff 7.13, Munster 7.13, King Chiara 7.12, Loyal Arch 7.9, Rathlin 7.9, Gold Fran 6.13, Soultane 6.13, Bowler 6.12, Colonnade 6.12, Lord Kenilworth 6.12, Coleraine 6.12, Lady Glen 6.8, Lady Bruce 6.7, Taj Mahal 6.7.
- HACK WELTER, one mile and a furlong.—Slipstitch 9.4, British Arch 9.4, Pierrot 9.1, Sleepy Jack 8.11, Demotic 8.11, Brown Loch 8.9, Independence 8.8, Kerone 8.7, Kiriwinning 8.6, Regio 8.5, Empire 8.5, Keystone 8.3, Lady Energy 8.2, Singular 8.2, King of the Valley 8.1, Step 8.1, Pre-eminent 8.0, Tematehapa 8.0, Jocular 8.0.
- FLYING STAKES, six furlongs.—King Lupin 9.8, Hopfield 8.11, Mill o' Gowrie 8.10, Vagabond 8.5, Lightning 7.13, Ring Lupin 7.12, Astor 7.9, Lady Jack 7.8, Kitty Bellairs 7.6, Torotoro 7.1, Loyal Arch 6.13, Arran 6.12, Colonnade 6.7, Monodon 6.7.

The report that the New Zealand Trotting Cup entrant, Matchlight, had broken down turns out to be incorrect, his trouble being rheumatism, to which he is subject. He was produced in the Mataura Trot on the opening day of the Gore Racing Club's meeting last week (writes our Invercargill correspondent), but the state of the going was all against him. He paced along at a 2.25 gait, a good enough performance on a sodden and slippery course, but he did not display the dash one would like to see in a Cup candidate.