

WANGANUI.

Ca'ais in Good Fettle—Wanganui J.C.'s Winter Meeting—Local Candidates Claiming Engagements at Bulls—Rangitikei R.C.'s Annual Meeting—A Record Gathering Anticipated—Feilding J.C.'s Easter Fixture.

WANGANUI, Monday.

M. Gardner sent Calais in to Wanganui from Waverley in order that the Patronus gelding would have some horses to school with over the small sticks. On Thursday morning Calais and Dasher Boy had a spin over the hurdles together, both jumping well. Calais looks to be very fit, and should run prominently at the Rangitikei meeting.

Gardner also has Hyginas, Oika and Staccato engaged at Bulls, and they are all said to be galloping well at Waverley, though Hyginas has to be taken very carefully, as he is none too sound and the tracks keep very hard.

Client has been kept going steadily since his dual win at the Wanganui meeting, and is looking remarkably well. He is engaged in the big events at the Feilding meeting at Easter, but it depends upon how he is treated whether he will start or not.

There has been some talk of the winter meeting of the Wanganui Jockey Club being limited to one day instead of two, and holding a one-day fixture in the spring. However, it is unlikely that this proposal will be carried. It certainly would appear wiser to hold a two days' meeting in May as usual this year, and then next season's dates could be so arranged if thought advisable so that a one-day meeting could be held in the spring and next year's winter gathering limited to one day.

Alex. Hall has accepted with Turangapito and IbeX at the Bulls meeting, the former being in the Carnarvon Hack, of six furlongs, with 9.0, while IbeX is in the Trial Plate, to be run on Wednesday. The last-named gelding is very fast on the track, but he will be meeting a couple of reputed good ones in Bayberry and Broad Arrow and several others which have a fair amount of pace.

Bayberry is a three-year-old son of Bayardo, and he is said to have been doing good work at Fordell lately. Broad Arrow is owned by Mr. Jas. Bull, and he is expected to make a name for himself, as he is going well and improving nicely.

H. Rayner intends taking Dasher Boy, Starengo and Awarua to Bulls. Dasher Boy has been doing good work lately, but he will need to have improved a lot to have much chance with Want, Mattock and Calais.

Starengo is looking and going nicely, and he might break the spell of bad luck which has followed him all through this season. He is engaged in the Scott Memorial, of six furlongs, at 7.10, a weight which would make his chance look rosy if he could reproduce his best form.

Moutoa Queen is galloping in fine style, but she has plenty of weight in the Scott Memorial, in which she has 8.12. She was a bit unlucky on both days at the Wanganui Cup meeting being interfered with the first day and getting away badly on the second day. With a good run on Wednesday she will be very handy at the finish.

From all accounts Nobleman is pleasing his connections, who are very confident the son of Sir Laddo will make a bold bid for victory in the Rangitikei Cup, in which he has 9.3. Gang Awa' (8.6) is very well, and should be handy at the finish.

The Rangitikei Racing Club should have a most successful meeting on Wednesday and Thursday if the weather is favourable. The acceptances for the first day's racing are excellent, and good fields and capital sport should be the order. The track is reported to be in capital order, though some rain would be welcome, otherwise the going will be very hard. The arrangements for the successful carrying out of the sport are well in hand, thanks to the good work done by Mr. H. A. Goodall, the secretary. The Rangitikei meeting has always been a popular one with Wanganui sportsmen, and it is safe to say there will be a big gathering of them at Bulls on Wednesday and Thursday.

The Feilding Easter meeting is one which is always looked forward to with pleasurable anticipation by racing enthusiasts on this coast, since the sport provided is of a high class and the management of the best. The splendid nominations received for the forthcoming meeting are such as give every indication of a record success being scored. The class of horses engaged is excellent, and the racing

promises to be of a most enjoyable description. Amongst the Cup entrants are such proved good ones as Client, Menelaus, Devotion, Nobleman, and others, while there are a fine lot of sprinters engaged, and all the hack events have filled remarkably well.

CANTERBURY.

Fiery Cross' Immediate Engagements—Auckland Cup Winner Thriving on Tasks Allotted Him—Biplane's Brilliant Work—Challenge Stakes Probably His Only Start at C.J.C. Meeting—Killard's Waimate Cup Victory—Notes on the Waimate Racing Club's Annual Meeting—Great Easter Handicap Favourites—Wellwood in Fine Fettle—Banian Taken in Hand Again.

CHRISTCHURCH, Monday.

All the Riccarton-trained candidates for the Great Easter and Autumn Handicaps have been getting through satisfactory tasks during the past week.

Fiery Cross appears to thrive on the galloping given him; indeed, his tasks are of such a severe nature that few horses could stand up to them. It is quite probable that he will contest both big handicaps and subsequently go north for the Manawatu meeting. There he may throw down the gauge of battle to Biplane, Estland and Hymestra in the Awapuni Gold Cup.

G. M. Aynsley has abandoned any idea of getting another race out of Wardancer this season, and the unlucky gelding has been thrown out of work.

Nothing at Riccarton shows such brilliant work on the tracks as Biplane. He is now thoroughly sound and is a much better colt than when brought back from the Wanganui meeting. Though no announcement has yet been made, it is doubtful if Mason will ask him to contest either of the two big handicaps, and certainly not the Great Autumn, as it is run on the same day as the Challenge Stakes. Somehow, I fancy the latter will be his only effort at the meeting, unless Mason fancies the Great Easter field is a very poor one.

Disdainful continues to go on the right way, and is bowling along very freely in her work. At one time she was always too anxious in the first part of her races, but lately she is content to go along at any required pace. She has plenty of friends for both the big races and may be given a run in each.

R. Derrett has recently taken in hand a three-year-old daughter of Hymettus and Mobility, who gives a good deal of promise.

The recent track work of Killjoy has been of an attractive nature; so good, in fact, as to bring her into great favour for the Great Easter Handicap.

Amongst the jumpers being got ready at Riccarton for autumn racing are Naupata, Jeannot, Hylans, Vascular, Wellwood, Don Francisco and Art. With the exception of the last-named they are anything but a high-class collection.

Reports from Yaldhurst credit Almoner with getting through a satisfactory preparation. He is being got ready for the C.J.C. Champagne Stakes and Challenge Stakes, and a meeting between him, Biplane and Hymestra in the latter event should be one of the great attractions of next month's meeting.

Though there were only four competitors in the Waimate Cup on Thursday the contest created considerable interest. After being well back in the early stages Killard had Brambletye's measure a long way from home and won in very decisive style. This victory will necessitate him putting up a 5lb. penalty in the Great Autumn Handicap, bringing his weight up to 7.4. The Kilbroney gelding is very well just at present and looks like playing his part well in the mile and a-half event, for he is a genuine stayer. Matthews, who trains him for Mr. J. B. Reid at Oamaru, intends bringing him and Punka to Riccarton shortly for the C.J.C. meeting.

Golden Prince scored a long-overdue win in the Studholme Stakes and rewarded those who stuck to him with a surprising dividend. To some extent he was lucky to defeat Mortham, who got knocked right back in the early stages of the contest.

Later in the afternoon Mortham made amends for his failure by appropriating the President's Handicap from a strong order in the Wingatui-trained Kilboyne. This time the luck was all in the winner's favour, as only for losing several lengths at the

start the favourite would probably have prevailed.

The biggest field of the day was seen out in the Trial Plate, amongst the competitors being several promising sorts. One of these, in Zephland, by Finland from Zephyr, showed a fine turn of speed in the early stages, and once in front never gave the opposition a chance. He is a full-brother to Finless, who last season won four races in succession. All Pink, who on Motukarara form was elected favourite, gave her backers a poor run for their money, as, in company with Mystery Maid, she was left at the post.

Weight of southern money was sufficient to send Linden out favourite for the Waitangi Hack Handicap, while Bellrock also had a strong following. The former quite justified the confidence reposed in him, for coming with a fine effort in the straight he just got up in time to defeat Red River and Golden Prince, who had made most of the running. There was considerable bumping during the race, as a result of which F. C. Porter, the rider of Thestius, was cautioned for interference with Bellrock.

The Stewards' Welter was an unsatisfactory contest, as All Ready, the favourite, and Te Anau were left standing when the barrier went up. Though faced with an impossible task All Ready's jockey set sail after the field and made up so much ground as to suggest that under ordinary circumstances victory would have come his way. As it was, Kilrush, Micky Free and Matty fought out a great finish, the trio being in that order as the post was passed, only necks separating them. Marco Bello, who was making his reappearance after a lengthy absence from the tracks, broke down when racing prominently, and it is doubtful if he will be persevered with.

The first of the visiting trainers to put in an appearance at Riccarton was G. Jones, who arrived on Saturday with Sweet Corn and Almo. The former looks very fit, but the Australian representative is not quite at his best.

R. J. Mason has again taken up Branor, the two-year-old gelding by Demosthenes from Mistime, who has been spelling since the spring. The same mentor is breaking in a yearling gelding by Solferino from Anitea, who will be raced next spring.

It is quite probable that Hymestra will finish up favourite for the Great Easter Handicap, though both Croesus and Sweet Corn have hosts of admirers.

The fact of Rorke's Drift having been engaged in the principal event at the Riverton meeting suggests that he may not be brought up for the C.J.C. gathering.

After contesting the big cross-country event at the Southland Racing Club's meeting Wellwood will probably remain in the south for the Riverton meeting. Pearson has the jumper in the best of form, and he should pick up a good stake during his southern campaign.

After being off the tracks for over a year Banian has been taken in hand again by R. Longley. He looks in robust health, and is to be got ready for winter racing.

A recent addition to J. B. Pearson's team at Riccarton in The Finn, a brother to Zulant.

Since her arrival at Riccarton, Sweet Corn has come into a good deal of favour for the Great Easter Handicap, and is now one of the most fancied candidates for that event.

SOUTHLAND

Hard Tracks Causing Anxiety—Sir Malt Changes Hands—Rorke's Drift Unlikely Starter at C.J.C. Meeting—Brooksdale's Pleasing Track Work—Riverton R.C.'s Easter Meeting—Gore R.C.'s Successful Summer Fixture—

INVERCARGILL, March 15.

Rain is badly needed at several Southland training centres at present, as the grass gallops are all very much on the firm side. Several horses gave evidence of having been galloped on a hard track after the Gore R.C. fixture, and similar trouble will have to be faced if there is no fall of moisture prior to the Southland R.C. meeting next week.

Notice of motion tabled at a meeting last week points to the fact that the Winton J.C. are about to substantially increase the stakes for the next Winton Guineas. It is almost certain that the conditions for the race will also be amended in favour of the progeny of bona fide Southland mares, born outside certain defined districts, being eligible for entry. This change has become necessary by reason of the fact that quite a

number of local matrons are being sent abroad each season to be mated with fashionable sires, and, as often as not, foal away from home, their descendants in this case being debarred from the Guineas race. At the present time the progeny of horses such as Kilbroney, Solferino, Sunny Lake, Markhope, and other sires are likely to be affected.

During the past week the local trainer G. McLean purchased the well-known gelding Sir Malt, by Malster—Graceton, at £100 from the Wingatui mentor, C. Geiseler. McLean has been very successful in the past with flighty or erratic horses, and is hoping that Sir Malt will yield to his treatment.

The Auckland Cup winner Balboa was not produced at Gore, but may be given a run at the S.R.C. meeting if the track is at all in a favourable state. In the meantime, the chestnut stallion is standing up to his tasks.

The Kilbroney filly Kilmeedy was not started at Gore, and has now been scratched for the Southland R.C.'s first day proceedings. So far Kilmeedy has failed to win a race, but her juvenile form was attractive, and her connections can hardly find fault when she is placed over southern hacks which have won minor events, in view of the fact that she was placed fourth in the Publicans' Handicap at the Dunedin J.C. Cup fixture, to say nothing of putting up a good race in the Hazlett Memorial Stakes (one mile) behind Fiery Cross (9.13) and Wardancer (9.4), when she had 8.2 and ran third in the southern record time of 1min. 39.4-5sec.

It is considered very unlikely that Rorke's Drift will fulfil his engagements in the Great Easter or Great Autumn Handicaps. His connections have no fault to find with the weights apportioned the son of Calibre, but Mr. F. A. Price likes to see his favourite race and cannot see his way at present to visit Riccarton for this purpose at Easter time. The bay gelding is galloping in something like his best form just now, and this fact would have lent a great deal of interest to a visit to Canterbury. He will be supported for the Southland Cup next week, if started, and, if held in reserve, will be a dangerous candidate at Riverton on Easter Saturday and the Monday following.

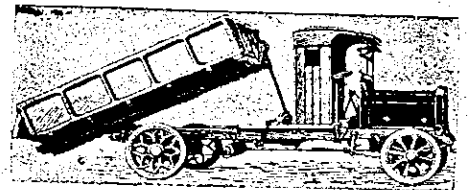
The Pallas gelding Brooksdale, who has been in retirement for some time past, is working along in an encouraging manner on the Southland R.C. tracks. He has been operated upon for throat trouble since he last appeared in public, and present indications point to the success of the experiment.

His friends have received information that Mr. James Swale, well known as an owner of steeplechasers and agricultural show jumping horses, who left New Zealand with a recent reinforcement draft, is returning home. It transpires that as the result of an accident on a transport somewhere on the shores of Australia he has had one of his hands amputated.

Mr. Henry Nicoll, who has filled the position of treasurer to the Southland R.C. with credit for quite a number of years, has taken his departure for military headquarters in the North Island to undergo a course of training.

The Calibre gelding Gunrest has fared down considerably of late, and it would not be surprising to find that he is in fair galloping shape for the Riverton R.C. Easter gathering.

A rough balance-sheet credits the Gore Racing Club's summer meeting with having returned a credit balance of £131 10s. The Government's share of the proceeds from the totalisator and stake tax amounted to the substantial sum of £643 19s. 10d. It cannot be said that the racing public are failing to find the sinews of war, whatever may be claimed on behalf of the party in opposition.



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