

RACING REVIEWED

MANAWATU RACING CLUB.

A RECORD GATHERING.

TRIALS WINS AUTUMN HANDICAP.

DESERT GOLD ANNEXES AWAPUNI GOLD CUP.

Ever since it became known that a meeting between Desert Gold and Biplane in the Awapuni Gold Cup was likely to eventuate, the autumn meeting of the Manawatu Racing Club was regarded in sporting circles throughout the Dominion as an attraction that no turf enthusiast could afford to miss, the opportunity of witnessing these widely discussed champions measure strides in the mile and a-quarter race influencing thousands of racegoers from all parts of the Dominion to make a special trip to Awapuni last week in connection with the club's autumn fixture. The scratching of Biplane on the eve of the contest, and the unparalleled demonstrations of public disapproval and disappointment that followed this eleventh hour proceeding—which was severely censured by the officials of the club—are now a matter of history, as is also Desert Gold's third successive victory in the Awapuni Gold Cup, which as was to be expected in the circumstances led to one of the most notable outbursts of popular enthusiasm ever witnessed on a New Zealand racecourse.

With ideal weather on Wednesday and easily a record attendance, including a number of visitors from Australia, it required but a keen and enjoyable afternoon's racing to make the opening day of the Manawatu Racing Club's autumn meeting an eventful one in the annals of the New Zealand turf, and as matters turned out the sport proved fully in keeping with the auspicious occasion, being marked by a standard of excellence it would be difficult to surpass. The fields for the various events were well above the average, and that Mr. J. E. Henrys had capably assessed the merits of the large number of horses engaged at the fixture was plainly apparent by the exciting finishes which resulted, the racing throughout being of a highly interesting character, while, excluding Desert Gold's anticipated victory in the big weight-for-age race, only two favourites managed to catch the judge's eye. Special provision had been made for the accommodation of the record attendance at Awapuni by the energetic secretary, Mr. J. M. Johnston, and other officials of the club, all arrangements working with that commendable degree of smoothness associated with past meetings of this go-ahead racing body. The totalisator staff was called upon to handle a very substantial sum, and when the figures were totalled up after the last race it was found that no less than £45,913 had passed through the machine, as against £18,002 on the opening day of the 1917 autumn gathering, which was held in May, an increase of £27,911, easily a one-day record for the club.

The stewards were called together on four occasions during the afternoon. The principal matter to engage their attention was the scratching of Biplane, which resulted in a motion of censure being passed upon the owner and trainer of the Comedy King colt for their withdrawal of the horse on the eve of the Awapuni Gold Cup. Other complaints considered were the running of Record in the Karere Hurdles, in which the horse in question was started in ordinary shoes, a satisfactory explanation being given by the owner when the case came up for further hearing on the second day; the action of W. Young, rider of the favourite, Ibex, in being badly left at the post in the Woodhey Hack Handicap, and the lack of control at the barrier of the contestants in the Autumn Handicap, the consideration of the latter two complaints being adjourned.

The first event to claim attention was the Karere Hurdles Handicap, from which Arlington, Want, Mahzoltov, Lord Nelson, Jiu Jitsu and Nita were withdrawn, leaving a field of a dozen to go to the post. Vacuum was elected a better favourite than Paul Moore, with Lord Ainslie, Prince Delaware and Sir Fisher all well supported. Prince Delaware set out to make the pace, and was in the lead

at the initial obstacle, but lost his position as the result of a faulty jump, while The Summit ran off at this early stage of the contest. Lord Ainslie took up the running and led past the stand, with Otter, Sir Fisher, Foeman and Taurira running next in the order named. Going along the back the positions were subject to considerable change, Taurira and Vacuum being taken to the front, with Sir Fisher and Paul Moore best placed of the others. Vacuum headed Taurira three-quarters of a mile from home, and the pair were several lengths in advance of Sir Fisher entering the home straight. A splendid race to the judge's box saw Sir Fisher defeat Vacuum by half a length, Paul Moore, who finished fast, being two lengths away third. Taurira was fourth, followed by Prince Delaware.

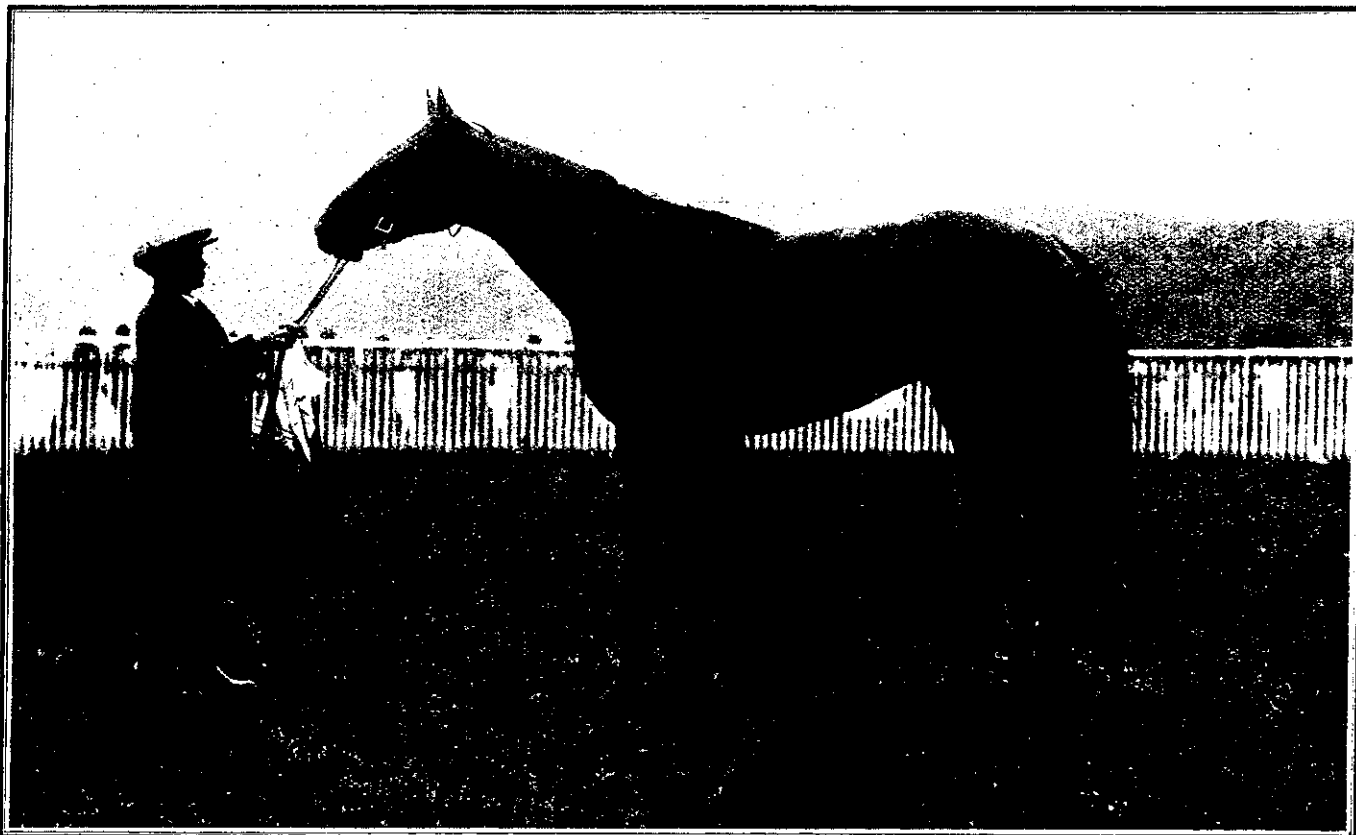
Sixteen hacks came out to contest the Maiden Plate, the defections being Self Alliance, Toddy, Maniwhere, Cyresian and Marlama. The Taranaki-owned mare, Winning Shot, was always a pronounced favourite from the moment betting commenced, her two seconds at Feilding at Easter being fresh in the minds of backers. Of the others, the chances of Skedaddle, Royal Reign and Tiranga were most fancied. E. Reid got the favourite away smartly, and once the field settled down the daughter of Signor was seen to be striding along freely at the head of affairs, Tiranga and Matatua being most prominent of the others. Winning Shot fully bore

bracketed with Killowen, was a very hot favourite, Heathercote and Torfreda being the only others of the nine runners to claim any degree of support. Torfreda was smartest on her feet, and the full sister to Hymestra looked like winning from end to end, but Finmark, by dint of his brilliant finishing powers, managed to get up in time to defeat Mr. A. McDonald's filly by half a head after a phenomenal burst of speed in the straight. Active was two lengths away third, and Kilmoon fourth, followed by Informal and Heathercote, whose display was distinctly disappointing after the good accounts of his prowess which preceded his arrival in Palmerston.

The Linton Hack Welter attracted no less than 17 starters, Queen Lizzie, Master Strowan, Whiro, Lady Mylchreest, Torchlight, Poka, Half Blue and Knockmore not being saddled up for the event. Warmth, with H. Gray in the saddle, was installed a good favourite, with the Auckland representative, Demotic, who had the services of B. Deeley, next in demand, others who figured prominently in the betting being Midnight Star, Colorado and Consultation. Gray got the favourite away in advance of the field, with Pervolo and Occasion as his nearest attendants, the trio being at the head of affairs passing the stands the first time. Going along the back stretch Rienzi, Midnight Star and Moutoa Camp improved their positions, the trio being handy to Warmth and Pervola as the straight was en-

of the others. The start proved a disappointment to backers of the favourite, Ibex being badly left when the tapes lifted. Formline set out as pacemaker, with Livland at the head of the others. The former led into the straight, where Galore and Gold Problem were almost on terms with the Formative gelding, but in an exciting set-to Formaline got home by a length from Gold Problem, with Galore half a length away third. Idle Talk was fourth.

The concluding event, the Telegraph Handicap, produced a field of 23, the defections being Parisian Diamond, Inah, Comment, Starengo, Sea Lord and Tirana. Deeley's mount, Lady General, was a slightly better favourite than Turangapito, while others to receive good support were: Lady Black, Hyttus, Birkenvale, Hymestra, Croesus and Association. Turangapito showed a disinclination to come up to the barrier, while Staccato got rid of her rider and bolted, taking no part in the race, the start of which was delayed for some time. When the tapes were released Birkenvale, Lady General, Croesus and Astrophel were seen in the van, the favourite showing the way into the straight, and her victory looked almost certain when P. Brady brought Croesus along with a well-sustained run, which landed the half brother to Desert Gold a winner by a head from Lady General, Astor, who was paying a sensational price for a win, being a similar distance away, third. Croesus paid a



THE CRACK TWO-YEAR-OLD OF THE SEASON—Mr. T. H. Lowry's ch c FINMARK, by Finland—Warscare, winner of the Tenth Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes (six furlongs). Trained by F. Davis.

out the expectations of her backers, winning handily by a length and a-half from Tiranga, with Matatua half a length away, third. Turpenite was fourth.

The large field of 27 acceptors for the Autumn Handicap was only reduced by two as the result of Ladify and Hydrus declining their engagements. Volo's win in the Makino Welter Handicap on the concluding day of the Feilding meeting caused the son of Husbandman to go out a strong favourite, Nobleman, Gang Awa, Glorify and Red Ribbon being next best backed in that order. The start was delayed for a long interval owing to liberties taken by many of the riders in repeatedly changing about at the post, and when the big field eventually did leave it was to a far from satisfactory despatch, several candidates having their chances spoiled at the barrier. Probation was in the lead passing the stands, with Multaine, Comment and Tressida as her nearest opponents, Orleans being last. Probation acted as pilot going out of the straight and maintained her position along the back, but racing to the straight entrance Comment went to the front, and was first to turn for home, Trials, Teka and Gold Soult all being handy at this stage. Trials was in the lead when the stands were reached, and, finishing gamely, stalled off a determined challenge from the little-fancied Teka, whom he defeated by two lengths, Gold Soult, who ran a sterling race, being only half a length away, third. Comment was fourth and Gang Awa' fifth.

Karo and Oratress were withdrawn from the Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes, in which Finmark, who was

tered. A splendid race ensued to the post, Moutoa Camp gaining a popular victory by a length and a half from Rienzi, with Midnight Star a similar distance away third. Quinn's Post was fourth, and Demotic, who received a bad passage throughout, fifth.

Biplane and Estland comprised the only withdrawals from the Awapuni Gold Cup, the starters being Desert Gold, Bisogne, Menelaus, Koesian, and Impediment. Mr. Lowry's crack mare was the only contestant to claim serious attention from backers, though a little money was invested on Impediment and Menelaus. The favourite, who was making her third appearance in the Awapuni Gold Cup, began with her accustomed smartness, and had a slight advantage of Koesian passing the stands, but going along the back she was two lengths in front of her rivals, the nearest of whom were Koesian, Menelaus and Impediment. She increased her lead in the run to the straight entrance, which she negotiated in advance of Menelaus and Impediment. Her victory was well assured at this stage, and she had no difficulty in winning by three lengths from Menelaus, a similar distance after whom came Impediment, with Koesian fourth and Bisogne last.

A quartette in Melita, Mystified, Rising Tide and Knockmore failed to come out for the Woodley Hack Handicap, in which 25 faced the starter, including the Auckland, Blue Cross, who, however, came in for little support. A warm favourite was found in the much boomed Ibex, who had the services of W. Young, Formline, Engari and Ayah next best in demand

two-figure dividend, which, in view of the fact that since the defeated Bo-Peep and Desert Gold in the Kelburn Plate (four furlongs) at the Wellington meeting in February last, he has accounted for the chief sprint race at the last Wanganui and Napier Park meetings, came as something in the nature of a surprise to followers of form, who are inclined to regard the son of Royal Fusilier as a doubtful stayer beyond five furlongs.

The results were:—

KARERE HURDLES of 200sovs; second 40sovs, third 20sovs. One mile and three-quarters.
 5—J. Hurley's br g Sir Fisher, by Maniapoto—Dear Dolly, aged, 11.8 (A. Ward) 1
 2—Mr. Reprah's blk g Vacuum, 4yrs, 9.9 (W. D. Young) 2
 1—G. Appleyard's b g Paul Moore, 6yrs, 9.5 (Stan. Reid) 3
 Also started: 10 Otter 11.3 (K. Lambess), 11 Record 10.12 (F. Flynn), 4 Prince Delaware 9.13 (McSweeney), 9 St. Elmo 9.11 (R. Thompson) and Golden Glade 9.2 (Cameron) bracketed, 3 Lord Ainslie 9.9 (Bowden), 7 The Summit 9.7 (W. Bush), 8 Foeman 9.4 (McDonald), 8 Taurira 9.2 (Burt).
 Won by half a length, two lengths between second and third. Time, 3min 15sec.
 MAIDEN PLATE of 100sovs; second 20sovs, third 10sovs. Seven furlongs.
 1—Goodwin and Alexander's b m Winning Shot, by Signor—True Shot, 4yrs, 7.11 (E. Reid) 1
 5—F. Hoskins' br g Tiranga, 4yrs, 7.11 (McCarten) 2
 15—P. Jensen's b c Matatua, 2yrs, 6.12 (Armstrong) 3
 Also started: 10 Poka 7.11 (W. Gray), 2 Skedaddle 7.11 (A. Thorner), 4 Papanui 7.11 (Chapman), 9 Advanceful 7.11 (Towler), 10 Half Blue 7.11 (F. Raynor), 12 Lady Phyllis 7.11 (W. Manson), 6 March On 7.11 (W. McLean), 8 Royal Reign 7.11 (J. Barry), 3 Turpenite 7.11 (R. Eager), 14 Utawai 7.11 (E. Reid), 13 Gloom 7.11 (G. Picken), 7 Justification 7.11 (T. Young), 4 Sun-bright 7.11 (G. McEwan).