

AUCKLAND RACING CLUB.

SUMMER MEETING.

CUP, RAILWAY, AND FOAL STAKES DAY.

There was never a more perfect day on which to commence an important race meeting than Boxing Day at Ellerslie proved. The weather was not only all that could be desired, but conditions generally were such as were favourable to a highly successful meeting: The special trains running once more, the trams doing their best, motor services at a stage of development never previously reached, and all available horse vehicles in commission enabled the holiday-makers to reach the old favourite spot in comfort and in good time. It was a large assemblage, equal, some thought, to any previous muster on the corresponding days, while many considered it beat the attendance of Exhibition year. It is no easy matter to estimate the number, but it is probably safe to say that there were not far short of 25,000 present. There were perhaps not so many at the head of the straight under the pines near the Greenlane side, but in the people's domain below the main buildings there seemed a dense crowd, and it is doubtful whether the lawn and paddock enclosures have held many more at any time.

A lot of people were just spoiling for a race meeting, so long has it been since one was held at Ellerslie, the one resort of many thousands. Then there are the thousands who come to Auckland once a year for the great carnival, and they gather from all quarters of the compass—from the east and west coasts of the North Island, from Hawke's Bay, Wellington and Taranaki provinces, and from every part of the Auckland province. From Canterbury, too, and from Nelson, and no doubt from other parts of the South Island, visitors were in evidence. The returned soldiers, many in khaki, make a formidable force now, and there were well over two thousand, we understand, accounted for through tickets issued. It was indeed a representative assemblage of a fine people well dressed in summer attire, and the beautiful day seemed to have been anticipated by the holiday-makers. The perfect condition in which they found the grounds was a theme upon which they were enthusiastic. The club's gardening staff, under the control of the efficient caretaker, Mr. A. Hill, had made every preparation for weeks and months before, and there was no part of the lawn and enclosures and grounds which did not leave a pleasing effect.

The course was covered with an emerald-like green carpet of grass, closely cut, and the running track was in splendid order for time-making and for the horses to gallop on, though perhaps a little bit hard for a few sore ones. The fields were of a little larger average than usual, due to the fact that there had been less spring racing than heretofore and that four days' racing were being provided. There were never more visiting horses and seldom have there been any better seen at Ellerslie or on other courses in New Zealand. The average class was good, distinctly so, and some in different departments would be fit to race in the best company to be found south of the line on conditions in the matter of weight which would show them to be little below the top standard. There is, indeed, reason to class at least one—Surveyor, who won the Foal Stakes—as a crack of his age, as he stood out from his opponents amongst the fine lot of two-year-olds seen out, while Sasanof has filled out into a particularly nice gelding since we saw him when he came back two years ago much travel-stained, though with a Melbourne Cup to his credit. To this he has added a New Zealand Cup and other important races, and was never quite so good as he is now. There were other good ones, which, however, did not quite so well satisfy the demands made upon them. The racing was good.

The new totalisator was on its trial and women clerks were largely in evidence in the manipulation of the business connected therewith, and they did well. The handling of £76,149 10s. in itself suggests that the totalisator arrangements were good. They will be improved upon as new conditions are fully mastered. It says something for the new machine that a record sum of £13,388 10s. was handled over the Auckland

Cup. This is a New Zealand record. We are quite aware that over some of the races a good deal of money was shut out. That would not be so if people would "shop early." There will always be the late comers. There are matters that will be adjusted as time goes on. The amount handled on Thursday was £4835 10s. less than on the opening day last year. But for a variety of causes it would perhaps have been very much larger, but the shortage need not be put down to any lack of ability or want of experience on the part of the totalisator staff. There will need to be further provision for paying out, and when that part of the business is put on a better footing money will find its way quicker to the machine for re-investment. Congratulations can be offered on the results. The machine formerly in use did not accomplish anything like so much when it was on its trial, for the reason that the staff had to become familiarised with the working, and it was not started at a big meeting like that commenced last week.

We have already stated that the racing was good, and Mr. Macmanamin should be satisfied over the first

Whether this mare will greatly distinguish herself remains to be seen. She was in receipt of a lot of weight from her opponents, but she is now well on the right side.

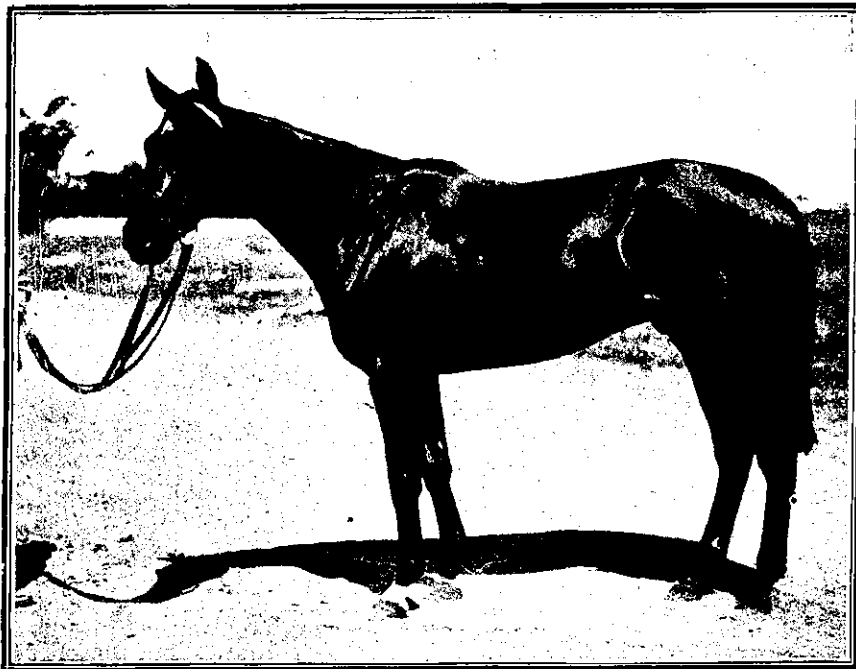
Mr. W. S. Spence, secretary, and staff had the business in their department well under control. The races were got off punctual to time, no putting back of the clock to get more money on races or anything of that sort. Mr. C. O'Connor, the starter, despatched the large fields well, and only in an odd instance or two did any of the horses get off badly. Colonel Soult played an old trick and was absolutely left in the Cup, and the two-year-old Pentagram, who is erratic, was badly at fault in the Nursery Handicap. There were no complaints regarding the riding of any of the horsemen, but during the afternoon an inquiry was begun at the instance of Mr. Alexander, owner of Silver Link, into something he had been told by another owner, Mr. Bennet, owner of Gazique. C. Brown, rider of Silver Link, was on the carpet, but not for the handling of that filly, as some supposed. A number of horses got galloped upon during the races, and in at least a couple of

beating Tigritiya and Melee (the favourite) by over a length, handily, Afterglow being fourth. Lady Energy performed best of the Auckland division. Melee was favourite and Gold Kip second fancy of the public, but the latter is suited by a shorter distance. Hineamaru failed to stay, and thus disappointed many, as she got away well. It was a fair betting race, but the total investments fell short by £1530 of the turnover on the same race last year. Karo was bred by the late Mr. G. P. Donnelly and is owned by Mrs. Perry, a daughter.

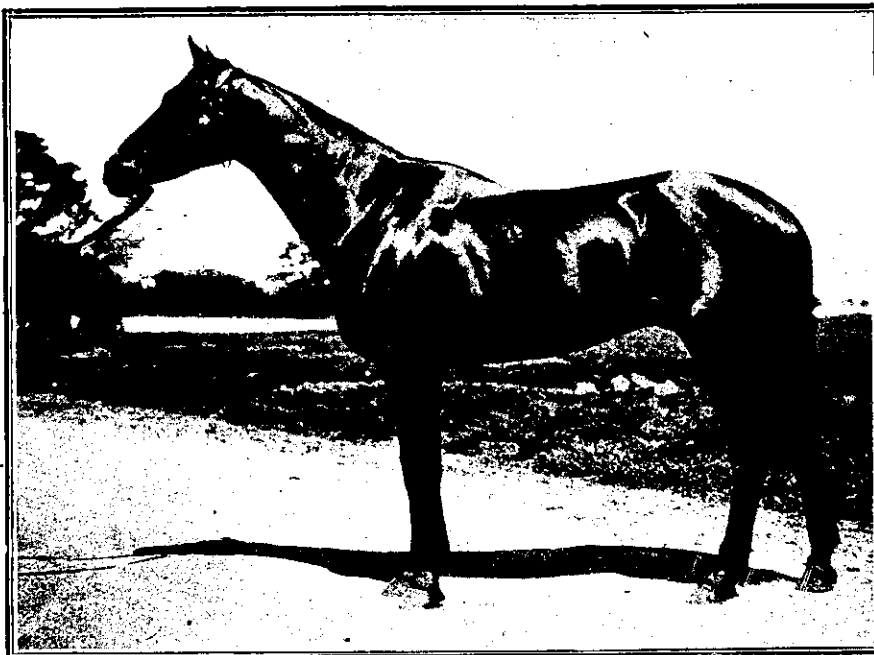
There was the large falling off of £2269 on the next event, the Great Northern Foal Stakes, for which Surveyor was backed to an extent that few two-year-olds have been supported before in Auckland, no less than £3377 being planked on Mr. Gerald Stead's colt, who won and paid by far the smallest dividend of the day. He began well, was steadied while others headed him, and after Crenides and Bitholia had cut at each other Surveyor came along and won in hollow style from the pair of Demosthenes youngsters, neither of which look so seasoned as the winner. That Surveyor is classy he has previously demonstrated by winning the C.J.C. Welcome Stakes and Electric Plate. He is a son of imported Nassau and the Stepniak mare Pedometer, and was bred by his owner. The race was run in 1min. 14.4sec., equalling that of last year, but it does not come near that of Biplane.

Twenty-four were saddled for the Robinson Handicap, Athens II., who ran well at Avondale, and Lionskin, who won for Sir George Clifford, her breeder in Canterbury, being made first and second favourites. How well the position was summed up by the public can be gathered from the fact that only a short head separated the pair at the finish. Di Gama's half-sister, Robur, the fourth fancy, was third, only on sufferance, however as Don't, who she beat, swerved badly at the half-distance and came out of her course towards the outside rails. Queen Abbey made the pace solid for five and a-half furlongs and then retired. The race was run in the good time of 1min. 27.25sec.

The Auckland Cup, the forty-fifth since it was first run under that name and won by the game little Templeton carrying 2.11.19, as most people know, the most valuable race in the Dominion, and it was fitting that there should be a good field for so good a stake. Seventeen of the nineteen carded were produced, the scratching of Mullingar and Kilrush on the day being the withdrawals. This is one of the largest of fields for so long a race, and was only one behind the last field for the New Zealand Cup, horses of much the same class competing; indeed, half a dozen of the starters ran for the southern event, and two that were in the first four in that race were placed. Sasanof, the winner of the Melbourne Cup as a three-year-old and of the N.Z. Cup, with 11lb. more weight than he had in the last-named race, was made a very strong favourite. He looked well, indeed, but was wearing a bandage, but moved in fine style and won many friends as he went his preliminary. There was not much wrong with the condition of any of the runners. Some were a bit more seasoned than others with racing, and no doubt Depredation and Red Dibbon would have been improved by a few races. Rose Pink may have had more than her share. Colonel Soult and Blackall were two that did not appear to relish the task before them, and the last-named did not want to do a preliminary, while the Colonel stopped at the post and took no part in the race. Mascot looked muscular and well off for condition, and served by her light weight went out early and led all the way after the first furlong, first one and then another getting tired of the ordeal of chasing her, those in the first stages, Heathercote and Glendower, being a brace. Along the back and top stretches the second time Mascot went out clear of the field, Heathercote, Glendower, Depredation, Blue Cross and Bingham being most prominent of the others. Red Ribbon and Sasanof then went up, the last-named running into second place before turning for home and raising the hopes of his admirers, but nothing had a chance with Mascot. They were all in difficulties, and she galloped home an easy winner by three lengths from Sasanof, who had made a good run. Blue Cross, staying on, was two lengths off, third. Red Ribbon fourth, close up, and Kilmoon, also sticking to his task, fifth. Depredation, Menelaus, Cynic, Mangamahoe were about next in order, with the rest strung out, some of them



A LEADING AUCKLAND TWO-YEAR-OLD.—Mr. Geo. Green's b g PRINCE CHARLEROI, by General Latour—Alicia. Trained by J. Chaaffe, Junr.



Mr. H. W. Brown's b g CYRISIAN, 3yrs., by Elysian—Cyirma. Trained by H. Eva.

day's experience. The public picked very well—indeed, surprisingly well—though only one actual favourite got home, and that was in the Foal Stakes, a special-weight race. In each race with one exception a favourite was placed, four of them were second, two third and one a winner, and in the largest field, the Robinson Handicap, a short head separated the first and second, Lionskin and Athens II. No Ellerslie-owned candidate succeeded in winning during the day, but Loyal Arch, who was sold on the eve of the meeting for 300 guineas and contingencies, 100sovs. out of the first win and a further 100sovs. out of winnings, was owned and trained at Ellerslie by D. P. Moraghan, who parted with her to Mr. Harold Brown, owner of Cyrisian and Form Up. It was good business as things turned out for both, as the extra hundred came quickly and the new owner won £250 back in stakes, and it is understood had a tidy sum by backing his purchase freely. The value of horses must be gauged by what they can win.

instances accidents occurred that may keep horses from racing further at the meeting. One rider parted company with his mount, Golden Petal, at the barrier, and evidently the gelding was at fault. The racing was not without a little bumping, and that cannot always be avoided when there are big fields. The running was clean throughout, as far as could be witnessed from the stands, though several beaten horses were not ridden out. As may be supposed, there were quite a number of well supported disappointments, and Prince Charleroi in the Foal Stakes was one of the prominent ones, but backers were really expecting too much of the little son of General Latour in the company. Though he had done his work well, there is not enough of him to cope with good big ones under a substantial scale of weights.

The Shortland Plate, under special weights favouring the older horses, drew together twenty-one runners, and three-year-olds had all the best of the argument, that good filly Karo