

WELLINGTON RACING CLUB.

AUTUMN MEETING.

AFTERGLOW WINS ST. LEGER.

SASANOF THE THOMPSON HANDICAP.

(From Our Wellington Correspondent.)

Splendid weather was experienced for the first day of the Wellington Racing Club's autumn meeting, which took place at Trentham on Thursday. The attendance was very satisfactory; visitors being present from all parts of New Zealand, and they were rewarded with some excellent racing, the equal of which has never hitherto been seen on the local grounds. Many prominent sportsmen were present, among the number being Sir G. Clifford (president of the Racing Conference), the Hons. T. M. Wilford, A. Myers, W. D. S. McDonald, and W. H. Herries, Sir J. Carroll, Dr. Newman, M.P., and Messrs. T. H. Lowry, G. D. Greenwood, W. G. Stead, G. L. Stead, W. Duncan, W. E. Bidwill, Walter Clifford, A. McDonald, Dwan Bros., J. Armstrong, F. Armstrong, C. F. Vallance, A. J. Foxward, J. G. Duncan, and many others.

The racing attained a high standard, Afterglow's victory in the N.Z. St. Leger Stakes and Sasanof's meritorious achievement in annexing the Thompson Handicap under the steadier of 9.9 both receiving deserved recognition from racegoers. Although Sasanof met with some interference during the race he was responsible for a remarkable effort, and aided by the judicious horsemanship of H. Gray, Mr. W. G. Stead's representative got up in time to beat the much-fancied Spanner by a neck. Sasanof's success was greeted with loud cheering, which was renewed when the horse returned to the birdcage, and both horse and rider certainly deserved the ovation accorded them, for the win was only secured after a stirring finish. In leaving the mile behind in 1min. 38sec., Sasanof put up a record for the race and the course which will probably stand for some years.

The North Island Challenge Stakes was robbed of a lot of interest through Gloaming, who carried 1163 tickets on the totalisator, getting entangled in the tapes when the barrier was in the act of rising, the result being he turned a complete somersault, while Deeley, who had the mount, was severely shaken. The jockey soon recovered after some attention and was well enough to take his place in the following race. The mishap to Gloaming left the race to Warplane, Affectation and Printemps, who finished in the order named. Gloaming was looked upon as a racecourse moral, and the incident once again demonstrated the glorious uncertainty of racing.

The totalisator staff handled £34,507 10s. during the afternoon, which must be considered highly satisfactory for an off day.

Mr. J. McMahon, chief stipendiary official, was in attendance, but there was nothing of moment to engage his attention. Mr. C. O'Connor, who was assisted by Mr. A. Vincent, was in excellent form at the barrier, the send-offs being very even. The judging of Mr. R. B. Lusk left nothing to be desired. The capable secretary of the club, Mr. A. E. Whyte, and his assistant, Mr. J. Griffiths, had everything in thorough working order, with the result that proceedings passed off very smoothly.

Racing commenced with the running of the First Hack Hurdle Handicap (1½ miles), from which Munster was the only withdrawal, leaving a quintette to face the starter. Multicipal, Papanui and Yankee Jack were backed in that order, the first-named being a good favourite. The race needs little description, for Yankee Jack assumed command just after the start and led throughout. Papanui and Multicipal both made gallant efforts to reach the leader, but these were of no avail, Yankee Jack winning very easily by three lengths from Papanui, with Multicipal third. Royal Battery was a poor fourth, and Gwynne last. The time, 3min. 12 3-5sec., is an Australasian record for the distance, which stamps Yankee Jack, who is owned by Mr. J. Bull, as a useful sort.

Backers went very solidly for Star Lady in the N.Z. St. Leger Stakes (1½ miles), the daughter of Lady Lucy having close on 500 more tickets on her number than was the case with the G.N. St. Leger winner, Afterglow, who looked trained to the

minute. Almoner, the only other starter, was not altogether neglected, over 500 tickets being registered on his number. When the tapes were released Star Lady went to the front closely followed by Afterglow, the pair racing in company throughout, with Almoner several lengths in the rear. Entering the straight for the second time the rival fillies were on even terms, but half-way up the running Afterglow came away to win easily by three lengths, with Almoner a couple of lengths away. Afterglow put up a time record for the race, leaving the distance behind in 3min. Hearty cheering greeted the winner on returning to the enclosure.

Rose Wreath, Speechmaker, Prince Hal, Hallowvonia, and Russett were taken out of the Plunket Nursery Handicap (five furlongs), leaving a field of twelve runners. Murihiku, a stablemate of Rose Wreath, was made favourite, her convincing win on the concluding day of the A.R.C. autumn gathering at Ellerslie having favourably impressed racegoers. Red Pepper, who also credited his owner with a race at the recent Ellerslie fixture, was second favourite, though a wide margin separated him in the betting from the Wairarapa candidate, while Amythas had hosts of friends. From a capital despatch the colours of Murihiku and Some Kid soon became prominent, while Amythas could be seen threading his way through and was on terms with the leaders coming on to the course proper, but he could not sustain his effort and was passed by Murihiku and Some Kid, closely followed by Red Pepper, who was putting in some fine work. In a splendid finish Red Pepper secured the verdict with a head to spare from Some Kid, with Ermine a neck away, third, and Amythas fourth.

The Thompson Handicap (one mile) was a fair betting race, there being over £6000 on the totalisator when the machine closed. Of this amount Sasanof and Spanner carried practically half the total, while the next to be fancied was Glendower, who was lower down the list by many hundreds. There were only two eleventh hour withdrawals, viz., Red Ribbon and Rebekah, leaving a field of nineteen runners. Very little delay was experienced at the start, Mr. O'Connor sending them away in beautiful line. At the outset the colours of Nystad, with Spanner next, were discernible, but with a couple of furlongs covered the Auckland candidate assumed control, while Sweet Corn and Rude were the colt's nearest companions. Spanner continued to bowl along in great style, and the favourite's success was voiced on all sides. Meanwhile Gray had been biding his time on Sasanof, and when heads were turned for home he called on his mount for a final effort, and the celebrated son of Martian responded in his gamest style, making up his ground at every stride. The cheering was deafening as Sasanof drew alongside Spanner, and in a memorable finish prevailed by a neck from the Australian-bred colt. Rude was three lengths away, third, with Vagabond, Nobleman and Nystad following in the order named.

Gloaming was voted a certainty for the North Island Challenge Stakes (seven furlongs), but the tapes were slow in rising, and they became entangled in the horse's legs, with the result that he came a cropper, much to the astonishment of B. Deeley, who received a severe shaking. The race was then left to Warplane, Affectation and Printemps. The former pair raced in company to within a few hundred yards of the post, when Warplane commenced to assert his superiority, but the finish saw him all out to win by a neck, with Printemps a poor third. Backers of the winner received a surprisingly good price in a three-horse race. Gloaming appeared to be suffering from lameness on returning to the birdcage.

Risinghani was regarded by backers as invincible in the Silverstream Handicap (one mile), and although Mr. "Lance Wood's" representative put up a stubborn fight he had to give way to his lighter-weighted opponents, the best he could do being to finish fourth. Pretty Bobby looked all over a winner coming into the straight, where The Speaker could be seen coming fast, and the latter, catching the Auckland-owned galloper a few hundred yards from the post, beat him home by a length, with Warlike in third place. Torchlight ran well, finishing just behind the placed division.

All of the nine acceptors in the Railway Handicap (six furlongs) started, Acre and Waimatao both being entrusted with substantial support, carrying over four figures each

on their prospects on the totalisator, while Old Gold, who appeared out of his class, was also well supported. From an excellent start Torfreda made the pace, closely followed by Demos and Killowen. Coming on to the course proper Acre threw out a challenge, which was, however, of brief duration, for the colt could not sustain his run and soon drifted back. Half-way down the running Lionskin was handy with Waimatao and Bo-Peep on even terms. The latter pair fought out a determined finish, Waimatao winning by a head, with Demos half a length away, third, and Lionskin fourth.

The afternoon's racing was brought to a conclusion with the running of the Tinakori Handicap (six furlongs), which was contested by twelve runners. Active, with H. Gray in the saddle, was a warm favourite, but there was ample coin of the realm for Black Mark and Charley. From an excellent start Astinome was soon in front, and coming on to the course proper the filly was clear of her field. Galloping very kindly the daughter of Maniapoto—Hellenois ran home an easy winner by two lengths from Black Mark, whose name appears to harbour the gelding some bad luck, the four-year-old son of All Black having been placed on several occasions recently. Active was a moderate third, and Charley fourth. The winner, who was successful at the recent Wairarapa meeting with 9st. on her back, was allowed to pay a nice price, especially in face of the fact that she was only burdened in her Trentham engagement with 7st. 5lbs., which included a 7lb. penalty.

The results were:—

FIRST HACK HURDLE HANDICAP of 200sovs; second 40sovs, third 20sovs. One mile and three-quarters.  
 3—J. Bull's b g Yankee Jack, aged, by Frisco—Willow Bank, 9.0 (A. McDonald) ..... 1  
 2—N. Rasmussen's blk g Papanui, aged, 9.13 (Lorrigan) ..... 2  
 1—A. McDonald's b g Multicipal, aged, 11.4 (S. Henderson) ..... 3  
 Also started: 4 Gwynne 9.0 (H. McSweeney), 5 Royal Battery 9.0 (G. Young).  
 Won very easily by three lengths, same distance between second and third. Royal Battery was fourth. Time 3min 12 3-5sec.

N.Z. ST. LEGER STAKES of 550sovs; second 75sovs, third 25sovs, and the nominator of winner 50sovs. One mile and three-quarters.  
 2—G. D. Greenwood's br f Afterglow, 3yrs, by Demosthenes—Sunglow, 8.7 (B. Deeley) ..... 1  
 1—A. J. Toxward's b f Star Lady, 3yrs, by Demosthenes—Lady Lucy, 8.7 (L. Morris) ..... 2  
 3—G. L. Stead's ch c Almoner, 3yrs, by Boniform—Cassock, 8.10 (H. Gray) ..... 3  
 Won easily by three lengths, two lengths between second and third. Time, 3min.

PLUNKET NURSERY HANDICAP of 200sovs; second 40sovs, third 20sovs. For two-year-olds. Five furlongs.  
 2—T. H. Lowry's ch c Red Pepper, by Demosthenes—Gipsy Belle, 7.11 (L. Morris) ..... 1  
 6—F. S. Rutherford's b g Some Kid, 8.0 (G. Young) ..... 2  
 7—J. Goring Johnston's br f Ermine, 8.6 (R. Reed) ..... 3  
 Also started: 3 Amythas 9.5 (C. Price), 1 Murihiku 8.10 (Bagby), 4 Night Raider 8.6 (H. Young), 9 Royal Exchange 7.5 (C. Reed), 5 Chaeronia 6.13 (Bittle) and Maronne 6.12 (McCormick) bracketed 8 American Beauty 7.2, inc. 4lb over (F. Corlett) and Swanee River 7.2, inc. 4lb over (L. Berry) bracketed, 10 Vitella 6.12 (Maskery).  
 Won by a head, with third horse a neck away. Amythas was fourth. Time, 1min 0 1-5sec.

THOMPSON HANDICAP of 1000sovs; second 200sovs, third 100sovs. One mile.  
 2—W. G. Stead's br g Sasanof, 5yrs, by Martian—Ukraine, 9.9 (Gray) ..... 1  
 1—E. W. Alison's b c Spanner, 3yrs, by The Nut—Dudu, 7.12 (Deeley) ..... 2  
 5—W. Duncan's br m Rude, 4yrs, by Cyrus—Cheeky, 8.0 (M. McCarten) ..... 3  
 Also started: 4 Punka 8.9 (Emerson), 16 Nobleman 8.8 (B. Morris), 8 Sweet Corn 8.6 (Shore), 3 Glendower 8.2 (R. Bagby), 6 Nystad 8.0 (R. Reed), 9 Mascot 7.13 (A. Reed), 11 Kilrush 7.11, inc. 7lb pen. (E. Manson), 14 Battle Song 7.10 (H. Young), 17 Vagabond 7.9 (Hockley), 19 Rose Pink 7.5 (Corlett), 13 Heathcote 7.4 (G. Young), 7 Melee 7.1 (L. Morris), 12 Bagdad 7.2½, inc. 2½lb over (L. Berry), 10 Marquetteur 6.12 (Corkhill), 15 Tressida 6.13½, inc. 4½lb over (C. Reed), 18 Matatua 6.7 (McCormick).  
 Won by a neck, with Rude three lengths away third. Vagabond was fourth. Time, 1min 38sec.

NORTH ISLAND CHALLENGE STAKES of 750sovs; second 100sovs, third 50sovs, nominator of winner 50 sovs. Weight for age. Seven furlongs.  
 3—J. Goring Johnston's b c Warplane, 2yrs, by Martian—Ade-licia, 7.3 (L. Morris) ..... 1  
 2—A. McDonald's b c Affectation, 2yrs, 8.3 (Bagby) ..... 2  
 1—A. Goodman's b c Printemps, 2yrs, 7.3 (C. Reed) ..... 3  
 Also started: 1 Gloaming 9.6 (B. Deeley).  
 Won by a neck, Printemps two lengths away third. Gloaming fell at the barrier rise. Time, 1min 26 3-5sec.  
 SILVERSTREAM HANDICAP of 200 sovs; second 40sovs, third 20sovs. One mile.  
 2—J. Armstrong's ch g The Speaker, 3yrs, by Demosthenes—Chatter-er, 7.13 (R. Reed) ..... 1

7—T. C. Boyle's br g Pretty Bobby, 5yrs, 7.11 (H. Young) ..... 2  
 3—T. H. Lowry's b g Warlike, 3yrs, 7.0 (L. Morris) ..... 3  
 Also started: 1 Risingham 9.0 (B. Deeley), 5 Cooling 8.13 (A. Reed), 4 Torchlight 8.3 (Gray), 8 First Salute 8.3 (Emerson), 9 Bondage 7.11 (G. Young), 6 Iमारibbon 7.5 (Bagby).  
 Won by a length, same distance between second and third. Risingham was fourth. Time, 1min 41 1-5sec.

RAILWAY HANDICAP of 500sovs; second 70sovs, third 30sovs. Six furlongs.  
 2—M. Williams' b g Waimatao, 6yrs, by Bezonian—Punawai, 8.13 (B. Deeley) ..... 1  
 7—W. E. Herbert's b f Bo-Peep, 3yrs, 7.13½, inc. 2½lb over (H. Gray) ..... 2  
 8—J. Hurley's br g Demos, 3yrs, 7.11 (H. Young) ..... 3  
 Also started: 1 Acre 8.12 (C. Price), 6 Torfreda 8.7 (Bagby), 9 Killowen 8.1 (Emerson), 5 Tigritiya 7.8 (A. Reed), 4 Lionskin 7.5, inc. 1lb over (G. Young), 3 Old Gold 7.0½, inc. 2½lb over (L. Morris).  
 Won by a head, half a length between second and third. Lionskin was fourth. Time, 1min 11 3-5sec.

TINAKORI HANDICAP of 200sovs; second 40sovs, third 20sovs. Six furlongs.  
 7—G. A. Palmer's br f Astinome, 3yrs, by Maniapoto—Hellenois, 7.5, inc. 7lb pen. (Bagby) ..... 1  
 2—H. G. Taylor's blk g Black Mark, 4yrs, 7.12 (B. Morris) ..... 2  
 1—W. E. Herbert's ch c Active, 3yrs, 8.11 (Gray) ..... 3  
 Also started: 5 Hurry Up 8.13 (R. Reed), 4 Mandrake 8.4 (H. Young), 3 Charley 8.4 (F. Ellis), 6 Wonder 8.1 (A. Reed), 10 Occasion 8.0 (G. Young), 11 Bonville 7.6, inc. 7lb pen. (Corlett), 9 Esperance 7.2 (L. Morris), 8 Pervolo 7.1 (C. Reed), 12 Californian 6.7 (Armstrong).  
 Won by two lengths, a neck between second and third, with Charley close up fourth. Time, 1min 13sec.

SECOND DAY.

AUTUMN HANDICAP WON BY GLENDOWER.

SASANOF WINS TRENTHAM GOLD CUP.

WELLINGTON, Saturday.

The meeting was brought to a conclusion to-day in dull though fine weather, and in the presence of a big crowd of sporting enthusiasts.

The racing was extremely interesting, several of the events being won by the narrowest of margins, while in a couple of races a tablecloth would have covered the placed horses. The splendid racing which resulted was undoubtedly a tribute to the club's handicapper, Mr. H. Coyle, who was deservedly complimented upon the all-round excellence of his work.

The sum of £51,684 10s. was put through the machine, making a total of £86,192 for the meeting.

Mr. J. McMahon, chief stipendiary steward, opened an investigation with regard to some interference that occurred to Bondage during the running of the Muritai Handicap, it being decided to adjourn the inquiry. Mr. C. O'Connor and his assistant, Mr. A. Vincent, were in fine form at the barrier, while Mr. R. B. Lusk, from his position in the judge's box, gave his decisions promptly and accurately.

The Messrs. V. and E. Riddiford had the misfortune to lose a promising two-year-old in Maronne during the running of the Pacific Handicap. The daughter of Martian—Innocence led to the turn, where she crossed her legs and fell. Upon examination it was discovered that she had broken her shoulder, the injuries received necessitating her destruction. Maronne was bred by her owners, and was the first one of their own breeding to win a race, her success having been registered at the recent meeting of the Wairarapa Racing Club. Her loss is a severe one, for Maronne gave every promise of turning out useful.

Sasanof put up a great performance in the Trentham Gold Cup, and well deserved the applause he received on returning to scale. The Rebekah boom burst to-day with a bang, for backers of the chestnut never had an opportunity of seeing their favourite amongst the leading division. She sweated considerably prior to leaving the birdcage, and this may have had something to do with her poor showing. Old Gold ran badly, and is evidently not as good as some of his admirers would make him out to be.

All the acceptors started in the Second Hack Hurdles, for which Yankee Jack was favourite. From a good start Munster went to the front, and led the field by several lengths right up to the last hurdle, when the stirrup irons broke, causing the Spalpeen gelding to lose four lengths and costing him the race. This accident enabled Yankee Jack to go on in front and win by a clear length from Munster, with Multicipal four lengths away, third. Munster was unfortunate, for the gelding would