

busy in the Hunters' Steeples. If Mode (9.7) can stay he may be hard to beat, as he is a fine jumper.

There are a good lot in the Spring Handicap, and the winner will take a lot of picking. Volo (9.11) has a big weight, but he is in capital form. Nobleman (8.10) is reported to be in good fettle, but if Client (8.10) can reproduce the form he showed at Trentham in July he will take a power of beating. Zola (7.7) reads as well as any of the lighter weights, unless Bingham can be induced to run up to his best track form.

Sir Fanciful (9.1) is top of the list in the Putiki Hack, and he can be depended upon to run a big race. Simon (7.6) is said to be doing well at Waverley, and he must be very dangerous, as he is an improving sort. Bayberry (7.2) is well enough treated, and if he is ever going to do any good this should be his opportunity.

There are a great lot in the Durie Hack, headed by Jutland (9.5). The son of Advance can gallop very fast, but he may take on the open sprint. Perfect Day (9.2), Egmont Park (8.2) and Farce (7.7) are all nicely weighted. Of the others, Mannish (7.0) is one that gives most promise, so far as track work is concerned.

PAKURANGA HUNT CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING.

NO SURRENDER WINS HUNT CLUB CUP.

The weather was fine on Saturday for the Pakuranga Hunt Club's meeting, with which the season of 1919-20 was begun in the Auckland province, and the club was distinctly fortunate that a drying wind and sun prevailed on the preceding day after the heavy rain of Wednesday and Thursday. The attendance for a hunt club meeting was particularly good, while the fields all round were up to the average—rather above in the flat races, owners being anxious to give their horses a run in view of meetings to follow. The want of horsemen to do the weights allotted was apparent as soon as the first of the flat races came on for decision. This was the Sylvia Park Handicap, in which there were twenty-eight starters, and no fewer than fifteen of the competitors had overweights, while only four apprentices of the number riding who were entitled to claim the 5lb. allowance could take advantage of their privilege, and then only in one case to the full extent, as they were too heavy though the minimum was 7st. There were only a few boys riding who could go to scale below 7st. Quite a number of the riders had wasted in order to get to the weights their mounts had to carry. The rac-

ing afforded the opportunity some of the owners were looking for, but while there were some horses that were out only for a bit of practice the racing was really good and many of the runners were in excellent form. The totalisator turnover ran out at £36,719, and would have been larger only that a number of people, as usual, were late in making up their minds what to back, and while many saved their money when the Jellicoe Handicap was run there were a few who fell in badly over Fabrique through being shut out. The management, under Mr. W. S. Spence (secretary) and staff, was up to date, and Mr. O'Connor did as well as could be expected with the material he had to deal with. The judge, Mr. R. B. Lusk, had one very close finish to decide, and that was in the race referred to in which four or five runners were well in line, and some of the spectators in different parts were under wrong impressions as to which of three had actually prevailed.

The business of the day started with the Maiden Hunters' Steeplechase Handicap, with nine runners. The aged Gluten gelding Southland, from a Hippocampus mare, who must have been a good age when she bred him, has been at Ellerslie schooling for over two months, and on the score of condition, despite the fact that he has not been on hard feed very long, he looked to be a lot better off than several of the others. His Excellency, who is a seasoned, well-kept hunter belonging to the master of the Pakuranga Hunt Club, Mr. H. Bullock Webster, is returned as by Excel, who was imported to improve the type of hackneys and hunters, and certainly made a good job of His Excellency, whose dam is given as by Endymion, who had progeny racing nearly forty years ago. Waikura, a son of Penury and Crispess, looked the rag of the field. Mamangu, a six-year-old gelding by All Black from Rosewater, looks a useful sort, but he unluckily fell on top of the hill, while His Excellency, Waikura, Master Bijou and Titiro each made mistakes that settled their chances. Southland led practically all the way and only had to be reminded that the winning-post was over a furlong away after jumping the last fence. Nyassa, who at one stage momentarily headed him, had then shot his bolt, and Sir John, plodding on, came and secured second place in the run home. Giraffe, who was very lame, was fourth, and Mamangu, re-mounted, was fifth. Southland's backers made him a pretty solid favourite. Sir John, being an outsider, paid a good price.

There were only five starters for the Hunters' Hurdle Race, Cymer and Swastika carrying nearly all the money between them, Cymer being

the best backed. The son of Elysian should have won by a good margin, but he slipped and lost a lot of ground while recovering himself, and though he got within a little more than a length of Dunrobin that gelding won and beat Swastika after a solid go by a neck. The backers of the aged Westmere gelding received the best dividend of the day, running to the thick end of a score. J. Preston rode him. Campfire Jack failed to stay after setting the pace and being prominent for over a mile. Lady Elstow fell or might perhaps with her pace have beaten them all, but they had hardly gone half a mile when she came down.

In the big field of twenty-eight War Tank, a four-year-old son of Elysian and Sea Delora, raced by Roulston Bros., of Pukekohe, was made favourite for the Sylvia Park Handicap, and carried nearly £450 more than No Mistake, who is a three-year-old son of Bezonian and Winsome. Lord Masterful and North Loburn were next in demand. War Tank justified the confidence placed in him by winning from end to end, but Emerald Hill, by Marble Arch, and Phyllona, another three-year-old by Elysian and also a big outsider, filled the places, Emerald Hill getting up in time to beat Dr. Beveridge's filly, then coming North Loburn and Bitholia. Overweights were carried by fifteen of the starters and allowances by four. A. Julian trained the winner and A. J. McFlinn rode him. The race was for three-year-olds and upwards that have never won a race, and at least a few will be lucky if they ever do, judging from the distances they were beaten.

Oakleigh was first favourite for the Pakuranga Hunt Club Cup, a race which has been established about forty years. The journey proved too far for him, though it is much shorter than it was a third of a century ago. It could be sensibly reduced, as the horses of to-day are different class from those allowed to race previously. No Surrender, the topweight, who is a better bred one than any of the field save Notability, who has to learn something in jumping, was too good class for the opposition, and he has not been a long time racing. His dam is a half-sister to Klater and a granddaughter of Victoria, who was one of Auckland's best representatives in the Auckland Cup a third of a century ago.

The Jellicoe Handicap created much interest. Backers made Paddington Green their first selection with £370 more than Tobasco was entrusted with, Alteration, Waiuta (each looking well) and Mullingar coming next. Of the lot Waiuta, who is very unlucky, made the best showing, and some people thought that she had

just beaten Fabrique, but the judge, in the best position to see, declared in favour of the last-named, while Meltchikoff, who made all the running, was a neck away, with his head clear of that of Depredation, Killard being about half a length away. Tabasco and Mullingar both bled, while Glenopal took no part in the race as she went lame in her preliminary and was permitted to return to the paddock. Paddington Green got away all right and was racing in second place for some distance.

Penona was made favourite on her work and weight for the Pearce Handicap, Esthonia, who is trained at Wanganui, and Entente Cordiale being next in request, Persian Prince, Demoiselle and Elyan coming next in order. The last-named soon headed Penona, and staying in front all the way won by two lengths. Llansannor was third, a length and a-half off, with Multiplane, Benzine, Canowindra, Persian Prince and Manakau next in order, Entente Cordiale, on whom Henderson had the mount, getting away badly.

The Ladies' Bracelet saw Forest Gold, the topweight, go out favourite, with Cymer second in request. Lady Elstow, by Bunyan from Lady Agnes (dam of Cuiragno), was in front after going down the back, and remained there, Mr. Terry landing her a winner by two and a-half lengths from Forest Gold, much to the satisfaction of Waitakato backers, the first and second, in different ownerships, being trained by Morriss. St. Carl was four lengths away, third. After the race there was an inquiry into the riding of Mr. B. Brewer of his horse Pablo, for alleged interference with Dr. Grant's mount, Koura, and the stewards cautioned him for carelessness.

The Liverpool Handicap saw Escaped (G. Young) and Crowhurst (A. J. McFlinn), the first and second favourites, almost equally backed, fight out a good finish, resulting in Escaped winning by a neck, Canzonet (ridden by S. Henderson) getting third, Rathlin, who is to be made a jumper of, with his light weight being fourth, and Hopfield next. Several were apparently eased off in the straight.

The results were:—

MAIDEN HUNTERS' STEEPLECHASE
of 150sovs; second 30sovs, third 15
sovs. About two miles and a-half.

- 1—R. T. Reid's br g Southland, aged,
by Gluten—Hippocampus mare,
10.3 (Adolph)
- 6—H. D. Burrows' b g Sir John,
aged, 10.5 (Speakman)
- 3—A. E. Brown's ch g Nyassa, aged,
10.3 (Roach)

Also started: 2 Mamangu 10.7 (W. Keapa), 5 His Excellency 10.5 (E. Rae), 9 Titiro 10.3 (Ericksen), 7 Waikura 10.3 (E. Preston), 4 Giraffe 10.2 (Warner), 8 Master Bijou 10.0 (J. Preston).



PRIME MINISTER'S RECENT VISIT TO WANGANUI. GROUP PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE COSMOPOLITAN CLUB JUST PRIOR TO THE UNVEILING OF THE ROLL OF HONOUR BY THE HON. W. F. MASSEY. Front row (from left): Messrs. J. Driver, G. M. Gardiner (president), W. Veitch, M.P., Hon. W. F. Massey (Prime Minister), Messrs. C. E. Mackay (Mayor), T. B. Williams, G. Spriggins. Second row: Messrs. W. Cunningham, J. Glover, J. Ball, C. Fry, T. Pargeter, Allomes, W. Gibbons, W. Corby, D. Wilson, D. McIvor, Inkpen.