

Monocle continues to be a disappointment, and Mr. E. W. Alison's gelding cut a poor figure in both races he contested at Devonport on Saturday.

Mischief, carrying 9st 3lb, recently won the Flying at the Brisbane Tattersall's Club's meeting. In this race Mischief started a very hot favourite, and for a pound invested on him you would just receive enough to pay for a good luncheon for one.

Full Rate has changed hands, and his new owner may put him over hurdles.

Danny Maher, the well-known jockey, was recently fined £2 and costs, and his license was ordered to be endorsed, by the Notts magistrates for motoring in West Bridgford at a speed dangerous to the public on Sunday. Defendant, who did not appear, pleaded guilty. With two companions he drove through the suburb at 30 miles an hour, just as people were leaving the churches, killing a dog.

The ex-Australian jockey, W. Bullock, is riding with success in England, and recently won a good two-year-old race at Nottingham on an American youngster, defeating nineteen other runners.

Capitol and Kapakapa gave an excellent display of jumping over the big fences on Tuesday morning.

The accident which put Leo out of commission will, in the minds of many, have the effect of making the Maiden Steeplechase at Ellerslie look more open. Track watchers were selecting Leo to make an exhibition of the field.

A. Morrow has the Menschikoff filly Lady Betty who met with an injury in the spring in work again at Ellerslie.

Immediately on the conclusion of the Wanganui meeting the Hutt trainer, G. Delaney, will leave for Sydney where he will superintend the preparation of Tilson.

By winning the Century Hurdles at Wanganui on Tuesday, Wimmera will have to put up a 7lb. penalty and the son of Merriwee will now have to carry 10.9 in the Great Northern Hurdles.

By winning the Wanganui Steeplechase, Jack Pot has incurred a 10lb. penalty in the Great Northern Steeplechase and his weight will now be 11.6.

Wimmera has only started twice over hurdles and victory went to him each time.

There was a lot of money in Auckland for Audax in the Century Hurdles at Wanganui, but the son of Birkenhead had to strike his colours to Wimmera.

Jack Pot's time, 6.7 4-5 for the Wanganui Steeplechase is a record for the race.

While schooling at Ellerslie on Tuesday morning the Leolanter gelding Leo came to grief and sustained a broken back and a friendly bullet put an end to his sufferings. Leo who was ridden by Phillips hit the second fence of the double hard, but he negotiated the other obstacles in good style till he reached the stone wall at the head of the straight when he crashed into heavily with the above result. Leo was one of the most promising chasers at Ellerslie and it was hard luck for his owner, Mr. H. Weal, and trainer, T. Williams to test the gelding's services just when he looked like playing his best card at the Winter meeting. Leo was a fair performer over hurdles and won a couple of good races.

A rather interesting case was decided in France recently, when M. Arthur Veil-Picard and Madame Lemaire de Villiers, the owner of the Saint Lucien Stud, thrashed out a difference in the Court of Appeal. The Continental correspondent of the London Sportsman says that M. A. Veil-Picard brought a yearling, Le Sicambre, at the Deauville sales for 440sovs. The sale was made under certain conditions and guarantees, and the buyer sent home the colt. He was surprised to learn from his trainer that Le Sicambre was a roarer. Calling in the veterinary surgeon, he was satisfied that such was the fact, and writing to the breeder declared that he could not accept the colt owing to the impossibility of racing or breeding from him. Madame Lemaire declined to reopen the transaction, declaring that when the

yearling left her stud he was all right in his wind. She lost her case. On appeal counsel for the defence argued that she could only be responsible in the event of her having been aware that the colt was really a roarer, and that, though the knowledge of such a vice was easily obtainable for a racehorse, it was not the same with an unbroken colt, who had never had the saddle on him or been galloped. M. A. Veil-Picard unable to prove that the colt had been galloped or had had the tackle on him at the stud, was unable to show that the colt was a roarer when he was sent up for sale, and has consequently been condemned to pay all expenses and retain possession of his purchase.

Apropos of Australia, what an awful lot of twaddle is being written about the shortsightedness and selfishness of owners and breeders in that country, who will not trade with Indian buyers on the latter's own terms. The Australians are no fools, they know the value of their stock, and what is more they know how and where to get it. If Indians will not pay the prices they ask, why, the Japanese or the Javanese or the Chinese or the Malays will. Horses are not a drug in the Australian market, not by any means; and if Indian owners think they can be better suited in England and on the Continent, why, let them go there and say no more about it. Our people, with the sole exception of Mr. A. A. Apar, are in no mood to take a sporting chance. What they are after are well-trying performers, and when the prices asked are stiff they pule about the Australians opening their mouths too loud. Let them try to buy winners in England and see how they'll fare. It is one thing buying a plater out of a selling race, or the cast-off from some training establishment, but quite another thing to secure a well-engaged horse always prominently mentioned in the market quotations. Mr. Goculdas, of Bombay, bought the champion sprinter Soultline in Australia for 2000gns., if I remember right (says a writer in the Indian Planters' Gazette) at any rate, it was a sum of four figures. In England he would have been asked at least £20,000 for a horse with such a reputation. The same writer states that "he will stake his reputation that those owners, like Mr. Apar, who remain steadfast to the waler will laugh best at last, especially in the Indian classics."

"The Asian" recently mentioned that at next season's Calcutta races some of the bookmakers who were betting last season would be missing, and in again referring to the subject says: "However sad this news may be to the punting brigade, there is yet some balm in Gilead for them. Two well-known military officers in the Punjab have made known their intentions to join the ranks of the metallicians. One has already arranged for a partner with capital from England, while he will mostly contribute in talent. In the other case the intending debutant is waiting his shortly-expected majority (in rank, not in years), when he means to make the plunge." Further on the same paper draws attention to the fact that Mr. James Pymm, an old-established bookmaker, advertising that in future his method would be "absolutely cash only," owing to continued bad settlements for the past six years.

### THE GREAT NORTHERN DOUBLE.

#### TRACK DOINGS OF THE JUMPERS.

With the Great Northern Steeplechase meeting only a week off, and visiting horses making their appearance almost every day, the track work at Ellerslie, particularly that of the jumpers, is most interesting, and a few notes on the same may prove welcome to those endeavouring to solve the big double, Hurdles and Steeplechase.

#### THE HURLERS.

Ben Johnson has been schooled several times, always giving a good display. On the other hand, when sent fast on the flat, he does not appear to gallop with his usual dash. In company with Hoanga on Tuesday morning he appeared to have had quite enough at the end of a circuit on the sand in 2.5 3-5, and Hoanga was finishing the better of the pair.

Shrapnel continues to stride along freely in his work, but he is evidently much better on the track than he is with the colours up. Taking into consideration that Shrapnel has not won

a race since he scored in the C.J.C. Grand National, nearly three years ago, he appears to have plenty of weight in Friday's race with 11.1 and no one would begrudge him a victory.

Paritutu has arrived and is looking fairly well, and a few gallops should put him right. In being awarded 10.7, the son of Castor is very leniently treated, and if all goes well he may start favourite.

Te Arai is looking well, but he does not appear to possess the pace of a season ago.

Prophet is about the best conditioned horse at Ellerslie, and should the fall he suffered at Takapuna have no effect on him, will surely be hard to beat on Friday.

Lady Patricia is jumping well, but does not appear to be herself and her doings would not suggest her being a Great Northern winner.

Dunborve is not jumping too kindly in his tasks over the battens. However, he is an out and out stayer and will probably be going on when many of his opponents are stopping.

Wellcast is said to have a very dicky leg, and has not been doing much work.

Commander is looking nice, and after his running at Takapuna should certainly be in greater demand than he will be on the day. From the way he finished on Saturday it looked as though the extra half mile at Ellerslie will be all in his favour.

Maioira broke down at Takapuna and need not be considered.

Hoanga is galloping well and may show up prominently before the meeting closes.

Armagh is improving with every gallop and after his good showing at Takapuna will be one of the best backed horses in the race.

Freevata cut a poor figure in the Maiden the first day at Takapuna and his chances at Ellerslie must be remote.

Pukeni is not himself at present and may not be seen at his best as he is short of work.

Tui Kitua can have no chance whatever, as he appears to be quite out of his class.

Luscombe is another who may not be at his best, and one could not even pick him to run well.

Ranghaeta is looking all right, but he has been a big disappointment since coming to Auckland, and a victory on his part would be a surprise, although he should run much better than he has for some time.

Several of those engaged have yet to arrive, and their appearance on the scene of operations will be awaited eagerly by those who have supported any of the local horses.

#### THE STEEPLECHASERS.

The top weight in the Great Northern, Kiatere, has got to come, but he has been over the Ellerslie country so often that his admirers only want to know if he is in tip-top fettle to take on the three and a-half mile journey.

Sol is looking well and the little fellow should find no difficulty in getting round the course.

Te Arai although galloping in good style does not like the water jumps, and these invariably stop him when he undertakes the big fences. If Te Arai could be induced to negotiate the water jumps he certainly would have a lot of admirers.

Loch Fyne is getting plenty of schooling over the big fences but his work has not been good enough to make one choose him to win the Great Northern.

Capitol has given a finished display each time he has been asked to take on the big fences and last year's winner promises to be hard to beat again.

Le Beau has not done too much and may be found short of work when he essays the steeplechase course.

Red McGregor is well off on the score of condition and if he improves in his jumping may run prominently.

Pierre has broken down and need not be considered.

Creusot is said to be getting through solid toil at Kohimarama and if this is so may be brought to Ellerslie and sent over the hill before Friday.

First Barrel is very fit and being a proved fencer should receive attention.

Cavaliero gave a very attractive display on Tuesday and the old fellow can be relied upon to put up a good fight. He will probably beat all the local horses weighted under 11st.

King Hippo is giving satisfaction and his win at Takapuna is sufficient proof of his condition.

Outside those engaged in the Great Northern Steeplechase nothing is pleasing better than Kapakapa and this horse will surely play a strong card before the meeting is through.

## Racing Reviewed.

### TAKAPUNA JOCKEY CLUB'S WINTER MEETING.

#### SEA ELF WINS THE EMPIRE HANDICAP.

The weather was perfect on Saturday, when the Takapuna Jockey Club brought off the first day's programme of the winter meeting, and by the time the racing opened there was a large attendance. The course and surroundings were looking well, but the racing track, despite the fine weather of the last couple of days, was a trifle heavy. A more interesting outing from a racing standpoint has never been held at Takapuna, and almost without exception the events terminated in close finishes, which speaks volumes for the work done by Mr. G. Morse, who framed the handicaps. With Mr. R. Wynyard, the popular secretary, superintending the gathering, it is hardly necessary to say that he saw that all arrangements were satisfactory, and much of the success of the outing is due to his efforts. Mr. W. J. Ralph, in the box, gave his decisions promptly, while Mr. C. O'Connor manipulated the barrier in good form. The "clocking" was in the hands of Mr. S. Kohn.

Speculation on the totalisator was brisk, the sum of £7602 being handled, as against £5985½ on the corresponding day of last year, an increase of £1616½.

#### THE RACING.

The curtain was raised with the Maiden Plate, and the scratching board showed that a good field of 15 was starting. After her prominent showing at Ellerslie at Easter, it was only to be expected the backers would make the Papakura-trained Soultoria favourite. The second choice was the top-weight Electrakoff. The start was a good one, the first to show out in front being Electrakoff, and he ran past the stand just clear of Flying Soult, Red Lupin and Soultoria. The order was the same till they started to run along the back, when Red Lupin dropped out and Soultoria ranged alongside Flying Soult, the pair being close behind Electrakoff. The latter was still having the best of it across the top stretch, and when he bounded into the straight it looked as though he would win. Gray then asked Soultoria a question, and the mare answering gamely, she was with the leader 50 yards from home. A great finish ensued, the verdict going to Soultoria by a head. Flying Soult was a length behind Electrakoff, in third place, and then came Caruso and Don Quex.

When backers got to work on the Pony Handicap they made Peggy Pryde a hot favourite, and once more they showed good judgment. Nora Soult, as usual, gave a lot of trouble at the post, but eventually the horses were despatched to a fair start. For a few strides Nora Soult showed in front, but then Peggy Pryde rushed to the front, and after that it was a hopeless chase for her opponents, as she just cantered along in front and won with her mouth open from Miss Stella, with Leafire in third place.

When the numbers were hoisted in the Empire Handicap, it was seen that all of the eight acceptors were starting. In the preliminaries Uranium moved a bit sore, and lost many admirers. Pohutu looked a bit big, but Haldane, Truganini and Sea Elf all moved well. The start was a good one, but the field had not gone far before Sir Artegal set out to make the running, and followed by Haldane and Truganini the son of Stepniak led into the straight the first time, with the field well together. Sir Artegal was still going well in front when they raced past the stand, and in the run across the turn Uranium began to make a forward move, with the result that she was close behind Sir Artegal when they entered the back stretch, and at the half-mile post the pair were together just clear of Sea Elf and Haldane. In the run across the top stretch Uranium had charge, and at the turn for home she was clear of Sea Elf, who was now in second place. When fairly straightened up for the run home, Ryan moved on Sea Elf, and the little mare quickly disposed of Uranium, and won nicely by a length and a-half. Sir Artegal was a good third, and Maheno fourth, the last to reach the box being Pohutu.

Of the big field which contested the Maiden Hurdles, backers favoured the chance of Freevata, and he had most