

fact that she had to be scratched would be a blow to her owner, Mr. McBeth, and several friends who went over to Sydney expressly to see her run. Nothing but luck has attended the New Zealand contingent, which has visited Australia this season. The death of Milan, and the ailments which have put Lady Lucy and Crucinella out of action have robbed both the A.J.C. and the V.R.C. spring meetings of a lot of their interest.

Mr. J. H. Pollock, the well-known handicapper, has made a very good suggestion in reference to the Wanganui Trotting Club's next race meeting. He suggests that a gathering should be held at a time when there is little racing in Canterbury, so as to get the South Island horses up this way. Also that this meeting should follow on after the Hutt Valley and Manawatu meetings. The committee of the local club are inclined to favour the proposal.

The meeting of the Wanganui Guineas winner with Polymorphus, California and Bobrikoff, and other cracks in the Champion Plate at Trentham, is being looked forward to with keen interest. If those mentioned go to the post, a great struggle should be witnessed, and fast time will probably be put up if the conditions are favourable.

Messrs. Freeman R. Jackson and Co. held a sale on Saturday morning of thoroughbred horses bred by Mr. G. F. Moore, of Bushy Park. The following prices were realised:—Ch g, three years, by Conqueror from Van, sold to D. Noake for 20½ guineas; bay filly, two years, by Sweet Simon from Moreen, sold to Mr. D. P. Cullinane, 13 guineas; bay gelding, two years, by Sweet Simon from Zaida, sold to Mr. Clive Matthews, 20 guineas; brown gelding, two years, by Sweet Simon from full sister to Dante, sold to Mr. J. T. Williams, 19 guineas; brown filly, two years, by St. Ambrose (imp.) from Pistol (full sister to Halberdier), sold to Mr. Clive Matthews, 30 guineas; brown gelding, two years, by Leger, from Lyrelinus, sold to Mr. Jas. Bull, 33½ guineas; bay filly, two years, by Sweet Simon from Lady Helen (dam of Helen Portland), sold to Mr. J. Brown, 29 guineas.

## WELLINGTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

WELLINGTON, October 3.

Local returned sportsmen from the recent Wanganui meeting speak in complimentary terms of the racing provided at the gathering. There was one glaring instance of reversal of form in one of the principal events on the concluding day compared with the winner's display on the first day. No action was, however, taken by the stewards, and the judge's decision was allowed to stand.

The starting at the recent Wanganui meeting was not up to the usual high standard appertaining to country clubs. It behoves racing officials to put this important branch of their business on a sound footing, and thus remove any cause for complaints under this heading.

Mon Ami ran a couple of decent races at Wanganui, and a win for the local owner, Mr. R. W. Paterson, seems within measureable distance.

Sonite appears to have run a very creditable race in the Wanganui Guineas, and only suffered defeat by a small margin. This black colt is owned by a well-known Wellington sportsman, and he gives promise of turning out very useful.

Tribulation's exertions at Wanganui should be the means of sharpening him up considerably in view of the colt's approaching engagements. This fine type of a galloper should make his presence felt in the classical races this season.

The Levin sportsman, Mr. J. R. McDonald, has a worthy jumper in Taurira, who won the Okehu Hurdles at Wanganui. The Mahaki gelding was turned out in capital trim by the Porirua trainer, Mr. J. H. Prosser.

W. Davies, the Trentham owner-trainer, had the ill-luck to run into second place with his horses on three occasions on the opening day at Wanganui. Sonite, First Battery and Xavier filled these positions.

Rangikapua was supported by his connections in his Wanganui campaign, but once again the San Fran colt let his backers down very badly.

Swimming Belt's exertions at Wanganui should freshen the Captain Webb horse up considerably. This bearer of Mr. J. Monk's colours is ex-

pected to be in good trim by the time the Wellington meeting comes on.

Longner ran well on the second day at Wanganui but Mr. Phazaryn's gelding found that the ancient Sardonyx carried too many guns for him at the finishing end. Longner should do better later on in the season.

The many Wellington friends of the Hunterville sportsman, Mr. J. Bull, junr., were glad to see his colours being carried in a conspicuous manner by The Native at Wanganui. This black gelding is expected to make a worthy addition to the ranks of the jumping brigade.

First Battery made some amends for his first day's Wanganui display by winning the Moutoa Hack race on the concluding day. Needless to say, the win was well received in Wellington by Davies' many associates, who were glad to see that dame fortune was smiling on him once more.

The Ruenalf horse Penates is in steady work at the Hutt, and all going well in the interim, the big fellow will be found amongst the runners at the W.R.C. meeting this month.

Wellington and its immediate vicinity is represented in the Auckland Cup with Diabolo and Rangikapua. The stable that shelters the former has turned out the winner in the last two Auckland Cups, and Prosser has some hopes of performing the hat-trick in the coming contest.

Excellent acceptances are assured for the Otaki Maori Racing Club's meeting, which takes place on Wednesday and Thursday next. From present appearances the gathering promises to rank as a most successful one. This meeting will mark the opening of the club's new racecourse.

The Foxton trainer, A. M. Wright, is keeping Lord Soult pottering about. This speedy pony will, all going well in the meantime, be a competitor in the Stewards' Handicap at Riccarton next month.

Splendid nominations have been received for the Wellington Racing Club's spring meeting, which takes place at Trentham on the 19th and 22nd inst. The weights for the several events on the first day are due to-morrow (Friday). Acceptances close on Tuesday next.

Xavier ran a creditable race at Wanganui, but once again the Tasman gelding filled second place. This hurdler put up something of a record in running into second place last season, for out of eleven starts, Davies' jumper filled this unenviable position on five occasions.

Dearest is reported in capital trim at Porirua. This full-sister to Master Soult is expected to keep her opponents busy in events that she competes in at the Otaki meeting.

The Merriwee colt Laius is said to have shown some marked improvement recently in his track work. Mr. R. T. Turnbull's representative will be a competitor at the Otaki meeting.

F. Porter, the ex-Auckland trainer, is settled down at the Hutt in C. Pritchard's old quarters. This mentor comes from the Northern City with a good reputation, and the future of horses trained by him will be watched with interest.

Foxton is well-represented in events at the Otaki meeting by a useful team. Some of the stake money is expected to find its way to the flax town.

The Renown gelding Notorious is moving along nicely on the Foxton tracks. The chestnut is expected to be capable of being seen under favourable circumstances at Otaki. Always a quick beginner, Notorious must be reckoned with in events up to seven furlongs.

M. Ambrose, who is attending to the Endeavour Lodge stable at Trentham during J. W. Lowe's absence in Australia, has a useful team in work. With Sea Queen, Iranui, Lord Kelvin, and Ebonite, Ambrose anticipates that some of his charges will soon be ready to give a good account of themselves.

The officials of the Otaki Maori Racing Club are leaving no stone unturned with a view to making the opening of the Club's new racecourse next week rank as the most successful function yet held in the district. Large crowds are expected, and the natives should be on good terms with themselves. All that is wanted as a fitting climax to the gathering is fine weather.

Fred Carmont, one of the Levin trainers, has a strong team engaged at Otaki. With Thetis, Teotane, Sir Frisco, Torpoint, and one or two others, the genial Fred has a notion that some of his team will run with some success at the gathering.

Returned sporting critics from the Wanganui meeting speak in disparaging terms of the form displayed by some of the horses in their two days' displays. The need of stipendiary officials to watch over racing is beginning to make itself more apparent at every race meeting.

## Racing Reviewed

### WANGANUI JOCKEY CLUB'S SPRING MEETING.

A SUCCESSFUL GATHERING.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The Wanganui Jockey Club's spring meeting took place on Thursday and Saturday, and must be written down as one of the most successful in the club's history. On the first day the weather was perfect, and the attendance a record. The course has never looked better, the pretty lawn and grounds being seen at their best, while the track was in first-class order.

The number of visiting sportsmen present was very large, and included amongst others Sir George Clifford, Messrs. F. Ormond, St. John Buckley, F. S. Fitzherbert, T. H. Lowry, R. Neumann (breeder of Master Laddo), R. W. Paterson, C. E. Major, J. R. McDonald, W. Davies and J. Bull.

The management of the sport was excellent, thanks principally to the capital work done by Mr. Wm. Hall, the club's most up-to-date, courteous and obliging secretary, who had all the arrangements so perfect as to ensure smooth working. To Mr. George Morse, the handicapper, much credit is also due, as his adjustments were very successful, and led to big fields facing the starter, also to some splendid racing.

Speculation was very brisk, as in addition to the machines putting through a record sum for a spring meeting, there were a greater number of bookmakers licensed, and they did good "biz." The total put through the machines for the two days was £17,586, as against £16,364 last year.

Racing opened with the Flying Handicap, for which Faunus was made favourite in a field of ten. The Officer gelding duly won in the fast time of 1.14 1-5. Emblem's chance was spoilt through getting off very badly. Mon Ami got going quickly, but shut up like a knife when Faunus got alongside of her. Electrakoff ran a good race under his 9.1.

Cheddar, winner of the Maiden, is a three-year-old gelding by Merriwee—Brown Alice, which created a very favourable impression. He fully maintained the reputation which had preceded him, and is one likely to make a name for himself in more important events. Falsetto, a three-year-old filly by Birkenhead—Trentalto, must be possessed of great pace, as she got off very badly, but was going remarkably well towards the finish. Had she started better she would have been very hard to beat.

The Guineas produced the finest field yet seen out for this event, all of the 12 starters being of good quality. It was, in fact, one of the best fields of three-year-olds yet started in any such event in New Zealand. On the score of condition, as also on performances, Danube was perhaps the pick, but though Master Laddo, Birkdale, Bunkum, Tribulation and Sonite were all capable of some improvement, still they were very well. Sonite was unfortunately suffering from a sore off fore fetlock joint, and this caused his friends some anxiety. The colt had been doing such splendid work on the tracks that he would have disputed favouritism with Danube had it not been for the soreness, which only came on him the day prior to the race. Save that he was just a little on the big side, Birkdale was a picture, and this colt is sure to prove himself a top-notch before long. Sonite led right up till within fifty yards of the post, when Danube came with a fine run and got the verdict by half-a-length from Mr. W. Davies' colt, Tribulation being third. While there were many to be found afterwards who expressed the opinion that Danube would always beat Sonite, not a few good judges held that the latter will, if he keeps sound, down Mr. Greenwood's colt when they next meet. However, Danube could do no more than win, and it is to his credit that he won at the right end.

Still, from such a lot of good ones it is quite on the cards that Danube will not go through the season without tasting defeat at the hands of one or two of those who finished behind him on Thursday. The time recorded was a record—1.42 1-5, one-fifth under Achilles' time in 1902.

Taurira scored an easy win in the big hurdles, in which Wimmera was sent out favourite. The Merriwee gelding was in the van for nearly a mile, but hit a hurdle hard opposite the stand, and this took some of the steam out of him. Waitapu looked very well, and it may not be long before he lands a race.

The Hack Hurdles fell to Te Whetu (by Daystar), a gelding which jumped beautifully. Waikaraka ran second, but would have won easily had he jumped better.

All Blue (a three-year-old daughter of Merriwee—Blue Water) carried most coin in the Putiki Hack Race, which was won all the way by St. Toney in 1.15. The latter gelding is a five-year-old son of St. Clements, and is quite one of the most brilliant of that sire's sons.

The Spring Handicap, one mile, fell to Clemora, who was in tip-top fettle, and won in most attractive style. The winner, Dreadless, and Tiptoe, got all the best of the start, The Lark and Coronetted, who were much fancied, being cut out early, and all chance lost. Sir Antrim finished at a great bat, and got up second.

### SECOND DAY.

Drizzling rain fell on the morning of the second day's racing, and continued up till about three o'clock, when it cleared up. The rain interfered somewhat with the attendance, but it was nevertheless very good. Racing opened with the Owen Handicap, for which Countermine was the popular pick, and duly won. Emblem was well backed, but again misbehaved herself at the post, and turned round when the barrier went up. She took no part in the race. Mon Ami led for five furlongs, and then went to pieces.

The Railway Hack was contested by eleven, Golden Loop, the top weight, being most fancied. Again the favourite got home, though had Falsetto got going quicker she would have troubled the winner. Big Blast stayed well for five furlongs.

The public got astray in the big hurdles, as Reumac was entrusted with the bulk of the coin, the winner turning up in Sardonyx, who was ridden by Mr. Chas. Gordon, a local amateur horseman. Mr. Gordon rode a very fine race, and the gelding won comfortably in the good time of 2.48, the track being a bit soft. Gold Bird ran well, and is likely to be a winner soon.

The Hack Hurdles was a peculiar race, but this was what had been indicated by the betting, which chopped about in a very funny way. There were only four starters, Te Whetu being heavily backed. Kotare shaped a lot better than on the opening day, and had the race won coming up the straight. The Native came well with an electrical rush, and before Julian could get his mount going again The Native had him and got the verdict by a nose.

Eight went to the post for the Higgle Handicap, Lady Medallist carrying twice as much money as anything else. She was in front practically all the way, and won nicely from Tiptoe, who was lame before he started, but galloped well, and just beat Coronetted by a nose. The time recorded—2.10—is the fastest for the race since Rustique won in 2.9 1-5 in 1906.

Everyone was pleased to see Mr. W. Davies have a turn of luck in the Moutoa Hack, in which his colt First Battery got home after a fine race, beating Mallet by a long neck, with Cheddar, the favourite, a good third. The latter was a long way behind half a mile from home, but finished well, and is unquestionably a good one. St. Lumsden ran well, and might have won but for his surcingle breaking and letting the saddle slip at the bend into the straight, where he was in the van.

Electrakoff put in a good performance in the Marangal Handicap, which brought the meeting to a close. The Menschikoff gelding was sent out favourite, but got a bump early, which threw him in the rear. He came fast at the finish, and won nicely from Dreadless, who had a big break at the half-distance.

Masterpiece, a two-year-old in the Stonyhurst stable is said to be a particularly smart bit of horse flesh.