

AUCKLAND RACING CLUB'S
SPRING MEETING.WEIGHTS FOR THE CITY
HANDICAP.

The spring venture of the Auckland Racing Club was brought further before sportsmen on Monday, when Mr. Geo. Morse issued the weights for the City Handicap, the principal flat handicap to be decided on the opening day of the meeting. Maori King heads the list with 9.8, but as the son of Merriwee is at present in Australia, his chances need not be considered. North-East is not overburdened when one looks up the chestnut's performances, and as he is reported to be working the reverse way round at Wanganui there appears to be good grounds to expect him at Ellerslie next month. Sedition has plenty of weight, and perhaps the poundage he is set to concede some of those lower down will prove too much for him. Salute ran well in the Plumpton Handicap at Avondale, but she has all she is entitled to. Paisano is about in his right place, but he may not be produced. Advocate was a strong favourite for the race last year, but he could only finish a moderate fourth. In the Plumpton Handicap at Avondale Advocate finished fourth, but as heads only separated the first four, he was only about a length behind the winner. He was putting in some very telling work, and had the race been a quarter of a mile further he would have been much nearer the front. Waiari has not raced well over a distance if we except his Easter Handicap victory, and perhaps a shorter journey may be more to his liking. Wimmera cut up badly at Wanganui, and he will probably find the company too good. Waimangu has been a long time fulfilling expectations, but there can be little doubt as to the pace possessed by the brown horse. His gallop on the track of 1.29 for seven furlongs a few weeks ago will take some beating. In the Avondale Cup Waimangu received a couple of nasty kicks before the race started, and was left last. He received a bad passage throughout, and in finishing a close third to California and North-East, put up a good performance. If the parties behind Waimangu elect to start him, he will take a power of beating, and should be favourite at a short price. However, the stable shelters another good one in Santa Rosa, who, by the way, landed this race last year with 8lb less than he will have to carry next month. He is galloping well, and perhaps the stable may rely upon him to do duty for them. Sea Elf is a good little bit of stuff, and her latest performances stamp her as being on the improve. She is always slow to find her feet, but in a race of this description she should be well suited. Uranium is very leniently treated, but she does not appear to be quite the mare of old. Lochbuie is a good little horse, and the distance will not trouble him. He ran a good race in the Grandstand Handicap at Avondale, and was at that time susceptible of improvement. Those lower down the list can all muster up some pace, and have some fair winning performances credited them. Taken all round, the handicap appears to be a good one, and there should be a good response from owners when acceptances fall due tomorrow (Friday) evening. The following are the weights:—

CITY HANDICAP, one mile and a-quarter.—Maori King 9.8, North-east 9.3, Sedition 9.0, Salute 8.8, Paisano 8.5, Advocate 8.1, Waiari 7.13, Wimmera 7.12, Waimangu 7.10, Santa Rosa 7.10, Sea Elf 7.10, Uranium 7.9, Lochbuie 7.8, Parable 7.6, Manapouri 7.5, Admiral Soult 7.4, Ballyheigh 7.1, Iney 7.0, Waitapu 6.13, Amato 6.12, Coromandel 6.10.

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INTER-PROVINCIAL

CANTERBURY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

CANTERBURY, October 11.

Quite a mild sensation was caused in Christchurch racing circles when it became known that Vice-Admiral and Formeden had been scratched for the New Zealand Cup at 12.25 p.m. yesterday. The former colt had been solidly supported by several backers who generally get the strength of Yaldhurst trained horses. His withdrawal created considerable surprise as the colt is allright and as well engaged at the Cup meeting. Formeden is not quite himself and may not be seen out next month. The next payment for the Cup is due on Friday October 21, the race being run three weeks on Saturday.

Handicaps for the Stewards Handicap will be declared on Monday next.

Mr. G. D. Greenwood's filly Pierere is the first of Archilles stock to race. She fetched 40 guineas at the Waikanae yearling sales.

Mr. Rutherford's mare Ingoda is doing excellent work at Riccarton and is one of the favourites for the big race. She has been well backed by those who follow W. Clarke's teams.

Tikitere has resumed work after her brief spell. The mare is looking well, but no doubt her absence from the tracks will militate against her chance in the Cup. D. Roberts had the mare well forward before her accident, but has hopes of getting her up to the two-mile post in the best of fettle.

L. H. Coleman made his first appearance in the South Island at the Geraldine meeting, riding three winners in J. C. N. Grigg's colours.

Crown Derby, who is engaged in the Cup will be given a run at the Oamaru meeting. He will be ridden by W. Holmes.

Cronstadt, who had to be eased in his work, after racing at Geraldine, resumed work this morning. S. J. Mason will leave for Wellington this week with Danube, Pierere and probably Directoire. The first named will start in the Champion Plate, and if Bobrikoff and Tribulation also start the race should be well worth seeing.

Kulnine, who was a well-known performer over country some years back, and the sire of many promising hunters died at Waikari last week.

Achary, a three-year-old son of Conqueror—Lady Principal showed good form at Ohoka races on Thursday last, winning two races.

Volodia is evidently coming back to form, as she won the Flying Handicap at Ohoka in good style after leading her field all the way.

There were only two starters, Coroniform 8.12, Highlight 7.2, in the principal race at Ohoka, and the former won without being troubled by two lengths.

Probable has been thrown out of work, his trainer finding it useless to persevere with him.

The two-year-old filly Avarice by Treadmill—Golden Crest will be the only representative from the Chokebore stable at the Wellington meeting. H. Cutts will take the filly North on Saturday.

Husbandman has been putting in a lot of hard solid work lately and is standing up his Cup preparation in good style. His stable companion, Taskmaster, is also doing attractive work, this horse is also in the Cup.

Work that Los Angeles is doing suggests that he is being trained for the Cup and not the Stewards Handicap. This horse is very well and will be hard to beat in any race he starts in next month. Several horses have been showing slight signs of lameness lately, among the number being Perm, Montreal, Ideate and Passion. Tawhaki was scratched for the New Zealand Cup at 10 a.m. to-day.

WELLINGTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

WELLINGTON, October 10.

The principal topic in sporting circles is the adjustments for the principal events at the W.R.C. spring meeting, which made their appearance on Friday last. The general consensus of opinion is that Mr. Pollock has framed the handicaps on very equitable lines, and there should be a liberal response from owners and trainers when acceptances fall due.

The new Gaming Bill has been freely discussed in sporting circles,

and, judging by all one hears, there seems a probability of the measure being considerably modified during its progress through the committee stages. Its final appearance on becoming law will be awaited with considerable interest.

One of our local owners, Mr. W. Smart, had a regular day out at the Marlborough meeting. With Merry Frank and Grand Jewel Mr. Smart captured four races. The wins were very popular, as "Walter" is universally respected amongst sporting folk.

Returned sportsmen from the Marlborough meeting state that notwithstanding the smallness of the fields in the several events, some very interesting racing took place. The return from the totalisator showed a considerable increase as compared with the similar gathering last year. As a result the club will show a handsome profit, which they intend to devote to increasing the stakes at their autumn meeting.

Mr. C. O'Connor was in good form at the Marlborough meeting, his send-offs being marked with precision and accuracy.

One of our local sportsmen who races as "H. Whitney" won the principal hurdle race on the opening day at Hastings with Whatakura. F. Porter, who lately took charge of Mr. Whitney's hands lost no time in turning out a winner. The Lethe gelding returned his supporters a dividend well into two figures.

The many friends of the Blenheim sport who races as "T. Septor" were glad to see Lawn Rose run with success at the local meeting. This mare claims an engagement in this year's N.Z. Cup, and is almost sure to be a starter in the event.

Oakley, who was purchased recently for £30 by Mr. C. F. Vallance, president of the Masterton Racing Club, will make his first appearance in his new owner's colours at the W.R.C. meeting next week. The Explosion gelding is a safe conveyance, but is not blessed with an over-abundance of speed.

The St. Hippo mare St. Amelia is in steady work at Waikanae. Mr. H. W. Parata's favourite is engaged in the hunters' steeplechasing events at Trentham.

It goes without saying that Waiohika, if he sees the post in steeplechasing events at Trentham, will have many admirers. This Gisborne-owned jumper gave a splendid display in similar events at the Lower Valley meeting.

The Champion Plate event, to be run at Trentham next week, is causing considerable interest in sporting circles. The meeting of some of our best horses in this event promises to provide a stirring contest.

W. Davies is hard at work at Trentham with Sonite, First Battery, and Deploy. The trio are all in excellent racing trim, and should run well in events to be decided on their home training grounds.

Inspection is in capital trim at Rototawai. This bearer of Mr. W. E. Bidwill's colours is expected to run prominently in this season's racing events.

Merrie Time, who performed so consistently at the recent Lower Valley meeting, will be a competitor at Trentham. Always a quick beginner the gelding will prove dangerous in short-distance events.

Epsom Downs is doing so well at Foxton that the chestnut's trainer, H. McPhee, is contemplating bringing the gelding to Trentham. This descendant of Euroclydon has shown his trainer some excellent track work recently.

The Hon. J. D. Ormond is well represented in events at the W.R.C. spring meeting, where invariably bearers of the all cerise run with some considerable success.

Penza failed to be seen in a favourable light at the Marlborough meeting. It is reported that the chestnut will make some amends in the immediate future for her disparaging display at Blenheim.

The Masterton Racing Club have received a very liberal response from owners for their spring meeting, which takes place at Opaki on the 28th and 29th inst. Mr. J. H. Pollock's weights are due on Friday of this week, while acceptances close on the 21st inst.

The Stepniak colt Turna, who gave such a good display at the Horowhenua meeting, is reported in excellent racing trim at Porirua. This bearer of Mr. Whitney's colours will be a competitor in short events at the Trentham gathering.

In a conversation with Mr. Whitney, he informed me that Turna would remain under Mr. Prosser's care at Porirua for the present, whilst F.

Porter will attend to the preparation of all his other horses.

Wellington and its immediate vicinity is strongly represented in events at the W.R.C. meeting. The local trainers intend doing their utmost to repel the attack of outside trainers, with a view to retaining the bulk of the prize money in the district. On present appearances they appear to have a very hard row to hoe.

Merrivonia continues to please J. Ayres by her exertions on the Trentham tracks. The mare's N.Z. Cup engagement will be decided after her running at Trentham next week.

Mr. F. S. Easton, the Foxton sportsman, is still keeping Stevens working on his private track. This Euroclydon gelding has been a rank disappointment, but Mr. Easton is sanguine that he will win a race with him one of these days.

C. Pritchard, the Hutt trainer, won the Maiden Handicap at the Marlborough with Lares, the half-brother to Penates by Clytie from Housewife. This black colt is said to be the makings of a real good sort. He was acquired cheaply for £100 when Mr. P. F. Tancred decided to retire from the racing business.

The Hutt trainer, F. Higgott, has been the recipient of many congratulations on the way in which he turned out Grand Jewel and Merry Frank, who were successful at Blenheim. The genial Frank combines hotel-keeping with training, and is very popular amongst sporting folk.

Mr. M. McGrath, the Masterton owner-trainer, has sold the San Fran gelding Osiris to an Australian buyer. The chestnut was shipped to the N.S.W. capital by the s.s. Moana on Friday last.

The many Wellington friends of the Messrs. Whitworths, who were formerly in business in this city as butchers and lately as hotelkeepers, were glad to see Artillerie winning the Caulfield Stakes at Flemington for them on Saturday last. This success of the Royal Artillery mare should go a long way towards compensating them for their bad luck of the last few months. It may be mentioned that Artillerie won this same event last year.

WANGANUI.

WANGANUI, October 10.

Nominations for the Waverley-Waitotara R.C. meeting, to be held on November 9, close with the secretary, Mr. J. W. Emmerson, on the 19th inst. The course is in splendid order at present, and everything promises well for this popular gathering. The large number of horses being trained at Waverley, Hawera and Wanganui for the meeting is an indication that the entries will be very satisfactory.

It is generally hoped that A. Hall made a good deal in purchasing North-East for 650 guineas. The gelding is in capital fettle just now, and it would not be surprising to see him land one of the big events at Trentham this month. Later on he will probably be given a chance to distinguish himself as a hurdler, at which he should prove very successful.

Irish Rifle is being schooled over hurdles. The big chestnut should do well at this game, and with The Native and Irish Rifle to run for him in jumping events Mr. J. Bull will hold a strong hand.

In view apparently of being raced at Auckland, Beacon, North-East and St. Bill were worked the reverse way on the tracks this morning. Beacon was put over the hurdles, but his showing was not too good, due probably to the reversing. St. Bill and North-East were galloped on the flat, both shaping well, particularly North-East, who is in great fettle, and if he keeps sound should return A. Hall his purchase money very shortly.

Euroco will not be raced again until the Waverley meeting comes round, and is being indulged in easy work.

Astraea, The Lark and John have been doing solid work, and this morning all did fast work in view of early engagements. John is looking remarkably well.

Jacks Stewart, the well-known Wanganui jockey, who recently went to Sydney, is having a turn of luck now, as he steered Grateful to victory at Rosehill and was on The Reckoning when the latter won at Randwick.

Merry Frank won a treble at the Marlborough meeting last week. Glenspring annexed a double.