

It will be remembered that after Vi had won the Dannevirke Handicap on the 16th of last month, her rider failed to draw the weight, but it was shown that the poundage had been dropped after the winning post was reached, and those who had supported Vi received their dividends. Mr. H. Spratt, owner of Mendip, who ran second, appealed against the race going to Vi. At a meeting of the Hawke's Bay J.C., last week, the committee upheld the appeal, and ordered the stakes to be paid to Mr. Spratt, owner of the second horse, Mendip.

Honours were well distributed amongst the sires at the Takapuna Jockey Club's spring meeting, 13 different horses claiming winning representatives during the two days. The treble success registered by Turbine placed Menschikoff on even terms for the leading position with the English-bred Lupin, for whom Red Lupin won a double and Golden Loop scored a single. The other sires credited with winning representatives at the North Shore gathering were: Bluejacket, Heirarch, Cyrenian, Cardigan, Soult, Regel, Rangipuhi, Leolantis, Freedom and Birkenhead.

During the two days' racing of the Takapuna Jockey Club's spring meeting 16 races were decided, and winners coming from 11 different stables it can be said that there was a fairly wide distribution of the prize money. F. McManemin came out at the head of the list with five winners, Turbine (who won a treble), Tranquil and Tat-too being his successful representatives. W. Mantle landed a double with Red Lupin, and C. Coleman scored respectively with Hoanga and Arawa. The other successful trainers were:—P. Jones (Waiotahi), W. Irwin (Lochbuie), W. Sharpe (Don Quex), T. O'Connor (Lucille), Wilds (Ranghaeta), F. Loomb (Silverlyte) and R. Barlow (Golden Loop).

After a gallop on the Perth training track recently, King's Cross, who was greatly fancied for the Perth Cup, had his hind leg shattered as the result of being kicked by The Brewer. It was found impossible to save the horse, which cost Messrs. Emanuel and Phillips 1000 guineas, and he was shot.

Haldane is not doing well just now, and the black gelding may not be seen out at Ellerslie.

Blue Garment is looking light just now, and perhaps W. Gall may not be able to land the brown horse at the post in his best form.

After the decision of the Pony Handicap on the second day at Takapuna an altercation took place between two of the riders in the event. They met again in the last race and matters may have been serious but for the fact that the mount of one of the riders was much too fast for his opponent.

It would be interesting to know the ground covered by jockeys J. Conquest and A. Whittaker on a busy morning at Ellerslie. Both lads are ever ready and willing to ride anybody and everybody's horses and their services are in big demand with trainers. As both Conquest and Whittaker are constantly riding work they are always in form and it not surprising to find them getting their fair share of winners.

W. Sharpe continues to win races at the small meetings. He keeps Lady Dot and Miss Ada up to the collar, and their success is fully deserved by Sharpe. The loss of the services of Don Quex would be a serious one.

J. Buchanan and B. Deeley have been missing from Ellerslie for the past few days. They are at Woodville fulfilling engagements.

Solus is hitting out in good style and the chestnut may pick up a stake for his owner at the approaching meeting. Solus is a good beginner and over short courses is useful.

The quarter of a million left by Tommy Loates, who died in England recently, is the largest fortune ever amassed by a jockey. The renowned Fred Archer left only £66,662; while George Fordham, one of the greatest jockeys of all time, was not worth £20,000 when he died. Fees were much smaller in those days, however, and Loates owed no small part of his riches to Mr. Leopold de Rothschild, for whom he won many races, and who advised him as to investments.

Lupulite gave evidence of returning to form by capturing a double at South Canterbury.

H. Jones, on whose riding services His Majesty King George has first claim, has accepted a retainer to ride next year for the Duke of Portland and Mr. W. Astor, those patrons of the Kingsclere stable having conjointly, second claim upon him. Lord Falmouth has renewed his claim on Higgs, and the Duke of Westminster's three years' claim on Randall has still another year to run. Frank Wootton will, of course, ride for Lord Derby, his apprenticeship to his father having been finished.

The death of the hurdle racer Bega is reported from Sydney at the age of 21 years. Bega had 54 races to his credit, including a hurdle double at a Randwick Easter meeting, and a hurdle double at a Melbourne Cup meeting. Bega was by Bargo.

A police raid was made in Melbourne recently on persons believed to be engaged in illegal betting, and 14 were arrested. Several others were served with summonses. No prominent bookmakers are concerned. Two of the cases were dealt with next day, Joseph Bradshaw being fined £100 and Thomas Griffiths £40 with £5 5s costs in each case.

The Challenger—Pianola two-year-old purchased for 125 guineas by a patron of J. Fielder's stable at the Newmarket sales on November 17, stumbled and fell while doing gentle exercise at Flemington, and, having broken her shoulder, was destroyed.

The three-year-old Caedmon (by Seaton Delaval—Serita) changed owners during the past week, and when he next sets out to carry silk he will figure in the nomination of a local hotelkeeper.

It is seldom that R. Hannon goes through a meeting without securing at least one race. However, at Takapuna the Waikato trainer failed to lead in a single winner, although Miss Winnie finished in a place twice.

On Monday Mr. G. D. Greenwood, owner of Danube, on receipt of the handsome gold cup won by that horse in the Champion Plate at the last Wellington races, entertained a large party at Amberley. The cup was filled with champagne. Speeches were made by Messrs. Gerald Stead, D. Macfarlane and W. T. Robinson, the latter proposing the health of Mr. Greenwood as one of the leading sportsmen of the Dominion.

Although a good many people consider that a blot on the new Gaming Act is that it does not limit programmes to seven races a day, it may be pointed out that between divisions and finals eleven races have frequently taken place at "pony" meetings in Sydney. Though that sounds a tolerably heavy order, it is quite light by comparison with the Houghton week at Newmarket (England) less than 40 years ago. Nothing was thought of fifteen races a day figuring in the programme and occasionally it appears to have been impossible to run them all off. On the Friday of the Houghton meeting, 1871, Judge Clark was called upon to give sixteen decisions. Three times (says the "Pink-Un") did two horses go to the post for one race, and it was generally believed that he gave the wrong decision at last. Twice there was a dead heat, and the next time he gave it a neck in favour of Mr. Joe Dawson's Marquis of Lorne, white jacket and red cap, whereas it was thought that in the dark he had confounded these colours with the white and blue of Captain Machell.

#### ROUND ABOUT ELLERSLIE.

A very poor morning's work was witnessed at Ellerslie on Tuesday morning, when the weather was fine and the tracks hard. The grass was the only track used.

Souls and Goodwin Sands were the first pair to work, the stablemates running home in 1.34 3-5. Solus appeared to most advantage.

Coromandel was restricted to long steady work.

Santa Rosa, who settled down to his work quickly, beat Waimangu over a mile in 1.50 3-5, neither being ridden out.

Kuratau, now in P. McLaughlin's charge, ran three furlongs in 39 3-5.

There was nothing to choose between Kakama and Tamainupo at the end of seven furlongs in 1.36 3-5.

Paisano moved nicely over the same ground in 1.31. He appeared to have a fair weight up.

Advocate was associated with

Bonny Fishwife over half a mile, the latter being no use to the Cup horse, who ran home in 51 3-5.

Dunborve and Epsom Lass worked steadily together.

Iney, got the best of the start and beat Goldfinder over seven furlongs in the good time of 1.30. Goldfinder was not favoured by his rider, and his performance was a good one.

Sphinx and Countree sprinted three furlongs in 38.

Without being hustled, Wenonah and Maxwell cast six furlongs behind in 1.20 4-5.

Waiotahi and a bay, related to Bully, ran half-a-mile in 54.

Monoplane, assisted by Rosalind over the last couple of furlongs, ran a mile in 1.45.

Luperin and Poitiers ran from the seven to the half-mile post in 38.

Manapouri moved well over seven furlongs, the little fellow registering 1.31.

Apellon sprinted a short half-mile on the sand.

Black Northern and Scotch were together at the end of six furlongs in 1.18.

Elegation beat Sylverlyte over half-a-mile in 50 4-5.

Seatonella ran the same distance in 50.

Hamadryad covered a circuit at three-quarter pace.

Lady Frances showed a turn of speed, the brown mare registering 49 3-5 for four furlongs.

Escamillo and Rangiora ran six furlongs in 1.24, the latter having all the best of the argument.

In addition to Kuratau, P. McLaughlin is handling a mare by St. Paul—Royalty, therefore a half-sister to Royal Day.

An unnamed pony by St. Paul, in T. William's stable, is showing lots of pace on the tracks, and he may be amongst the runners at the Auckland Trotting Club's meeting.

J. Conquest has been engaged to ride Waimangu in the Auckland Cup. The pair were associated when Waimangu won the King Edward Memorial Handicap.

Paisano continues to move along the right way at Ellerslie, and many shrewd ones are ticking Strowan's son to be a hard horse to beat on Boxing Day, when the Cup comes up for decision.

Blue Garment is hardly looking himself just now, and the brown horse may not be seen at his best at Ellerslie.

Waiari is amiss, and this accounts for his non-appearance amongst the nominations at the A.R.C. Summer Meeting.

The gelding Tipua has gone into F. McManemin's stable.

J. Chaate has had an addition to his string in the shape of a half-sister to First Barrel.

After working on Tuesday, Allegation sprang a tendon. D. Bannatyne, who had charge of the colt, is having a particularly bad run.

Kopu is looking well, and appears to be quite ready to undertake the winding-up gallops. He is a chestnut with three white feet.

R. Hall has had Rangiora placed in his charge. The chaser Loch Fyne will, in the course of a couple of weeks, also be one of Hall's team.

Delegate does not appear to improve in his schooling, and he jumped very slow while doing a round of the hurdles in company with Lady Patricia during the week.

Rumour has it that Prophet registered a fast mile and a-half outside the trestles on the course proper one afternoon recently.

Goldfinder is moving along well, and everything points to him seeing the post in the Cup. Some difficulty may be experienced in securing the services of a capable lightweight, as the son of San Fran has only 6.7 to carry.

Iney registered a smart seven furlongs on Tuesday, the mare beating Goldfinder over the distance in 1.30.

Of the 13 horses engaged in the Cup, all except four, Diabolo, Bridge, John, and Sir Prize, are at present working at Ellerslie.

Toa Tuhi cut up very badly in a gallop with an unnamed pony, out of Silk, on Tuesday. The chestnut will have to improve considerably if he is to credit his owner with a stake.

Disquieting rumours have been in circulation during the past few days concerning Advocate. The son of Hotchkiss worked on Tuesday, but he was only asked to travel half-a-mile, which he cast behind in 51 2-5, easily beating Bonny Fishwife. Advocate looks on the big side, and it will be interesting to see how he shapes in his work when asked to run over a distance.

Elysian was on the track during the week, but it will be some time before this fine looking horse will be seen with the colours up.

Master Baber, in D. Moraghan's stable, is a regular attendant, and he may contest some of the minor juvenile events at the approaching meeting.

Sir Walter, who figures in hack races at Ellerslie, is a brother to Turbine. He is a vastly different built horse to the Takapuna hero.

F. McManemin is keeping his two-year-olds, Tranquil, Merci and Kaween going, but the prospects of the trio of capturing a race at the A.R.C. gathering look far from bright.

Lady Patricia is being kept moving in her work, but it is doubtful if this mare will be at her best at Xmas. She jumped the hurdles in good style on Tuesday.

Frank Ross is keeping the cream gelding Togoshushima moving on the track. A win for any of Frank's team would not be out of its turn.

R. Hall has a half-brother to Sabre in work at Ellerslie. This trainer is getting quite a big string together.

At the time of writing a rider has not been engaged to ride Goldfinder in the Cup.

After working at Ellerslie on Tuesday morning, Bully picked up a nail, and the bay gelding will have to be eased again.

A visitor from the South states that there is very little likelihood of C. Jenkins being seen in the saddle at Xmas, as the well-known horseman has had to have the stitches in his leg renewed.

#### AUCKLAND RACING CLUB'S SUMMER MEETING.

##### SMALL ACCEPTANCES.

The acceptances received for the Auckland Cup on Friday evening were, numerically, distinctly disappointing, as a glance at the list shows that only 13 horses have been paid up for the £2000 race. However, what is missing in numbers is to some extent compensated for in quality, as with the exception of Birkdale all the fancied candidates remain in the event. Diabolo now heads the list, and the black son of Stepniak is such a thorough stayer that the chances are that he will ultimately start favourite. He is trained by Jos. Prosser, at Porirua, who it may be remarked has captured the two last Auckland Cups with All Red. Can Prosser do the hat trick? The New Zealand Cup winner, Bridge, is next and opinion is divided as to whether he will again beat Diabolo, this time with only 2lb in his favour. Sedition whose connections, it is said, are dissatisfied with the weight allotted their horse, still remains in the event and has plenty of admirers. Kopu 7.10 is the ruling favourite and on form he certainly appears to be well treated. His performance in the Fendalton Handicap at Riccarton was a splendid one, and as he can be looked upon as a certain starter, his price is not likely to lengthen. Waimangu does not appear to be a reliable customer, but if on his best behaviour on Boxing Day the black horse will be very hard to dispose of. Sir Prize has been off the scene for some time and he would want to be quite at his best to have a chance. Paisano is a good stayer, while he has also pace. John has been running well in races over a distance, and the two miles in the Cup should suit him down to the ground. The much-discussed Advocate holds his place and we shall have to wait till Boxing Day to find out whether he is overrated or not. On his running second to All Red last year he is undoubtedly the pick of the handicap, and if all goes well with him from now on he will be a popular fancy. The others engaged and Prophet, Manapouri, Dunborve and Goldfinder, and on recent performances they can have very little chance in the event.

As in the Cup, the acceptances for the Railway are also disappointing, the field, on Friday, being reduced to 16. Salute is at the head of the handicap, and with 9.1 the brilliant daughter of Soult will make a bold bid for the prize. Turbine, in view of his recent performances, is regarded somewhat in the light of a certainty, but there are some very fast horses engaged in the Railway and Mr. Davies' horse will meet stronger opposition that he has yet encountered. Salute meets Turbine on 13lb better terms than when she suffered defeat at his hands in the Parnell Handicap, and I fully expect her to be with him at the judge's box at the