

TROTTING.

(By "HAVOC.")

FIXTURES.

March 23 and 24—Wanganui T.C.
April 1, 5 and 8—Auckland T.C. Autumn

HANDICAPS.

March 20—Auckland T.C. (First day).

ACCEPTANCES.

March 24—Auckland T.C. (First day)

Acceptances for all events to be decided on the opening day of the Auckland Trotting Club's meeting close with Mr. C. F. Mack, to-morrow (Friday), at 9 p.m.

The Akaroa sportsman, Mr. E. E. Lelievre, is so impressed with the promise given by his Harold Dillon—Gratanette colt, that he intends sending him to Melbourne to fulfil his engagement in Wren's Futurity Stakes, to be run in July next.

WANGANUI TROTTING CLUB'S ANNUAL MEETING.

Advices from the scene of operations go to show that everything is well in order for the second annual gathering of the Wanganui Trotting Club which opens this afternoon. The handicaps for the events were declared by Mr. U. Shannon and if one can judge by the acceptances received his work has given general satisfaction. However it would appear as though the limits were altogether too big and with the starts awarded some of them they would not require to be much good to beat the backmarkers. The fields include several visiting horses from Taranaki Auckland and Wellington and it would appear as though the club was in for a successful gathering. The following are the acceptances:—

KIRKWOOD HANDICAP, one mile and a-half.—Vanclare scratch, John H. 15sec, Renee Clair 21sec, Nancy Bell 24sec, Waikino 30sec, Apology 45sec, Katie G. 45sec, Gather No Moss 45sec.
CUP, two miles.—Golden Rose scratch, Gold Bell 18sec, Marae Manu 18sec, Renee Clair 20sec, Glenidol 22sec, Phil 22sec, Pearlmaid 23sec, Red Lace 23sec, Mersey 30sec, Kotiri 30sec, The Flasher 35sec, Ding-dong 37sec, Plaintiff 40sec, Magnet 42sec, Kingfisher 42sec.
HAMMOND HANDICAP, one mile.—Manxman scratch, Boadicea 5sec, Pierotte 6sec, Renee Clair 7sec, Jewel 18sec, Chimes 18sec, Apology 23sec, Fashion 23sec, Scamper 23sec, Florence W. 23sec, Te Wahanui 23sec.

CASTLECLIFF HANDICAP, one mile and a-half.—Renee Clair 15sec, Phil 16sec, Mariner 22sec, Waikino 24sec, Magnet 32sec, Florence W. 39sec, Gather No Moss 39sec, Dolly W. 39sec, Con 39sec, Ribbon 39sec, Lady Victor 39sec, Casey 39sec, Try Again 39sec.

PRESIDENT'S HANDICAP, one mile and a-half.—Vanclare scratch, Pierotte 20sec, Phil 27sec, Nancy Bell 27sec, Pearlmaid 27sec, Red Lace 27sec, Mariner 28sec, Mersey 28sec, Kotiri 28sec, Waikino 30sec, Wild Maid 30sec, The Flasher 32sec, Hova 37sec, Indian Rose 45sec, Florence W. 45sec, Katie G. 45sec, Ella 45sec, Bella 45sec.

DASH HANDICAP, one mile.—Manxman 1sec, John H. 4sec, Boadicea 6sec, Gold Bell 7sec, Marae Manu 7sec, Plaintiff 18sec, Magnet 20sec, Kingfisher 20sec, Scamper 24sec.

AUCKLAND TROTTING CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

HANDICAPS FOR FIRST DAY'S RACING.

The following handicaps have been declared by Mr. F. W. Edwards for the events to be run on the opening day of the Auckland Trotting Club's Autumn Meeting, which takes place on April 1:—

MAIDEN HANDICAP, one mile and a-half.—Miss Salisbury scratch, Norminton 6sec, Speciality 7sec, Thelma McKinney 9sec, Lord Victor 9sec, Auckland Girl 10sec, Wilga 10sec, Crown Prince 10sec, Prince Royal 10sec, Master Park 12sec, Mikado 15sec, Merry Will 15sec.

STEWARDS' HANDICAP, two miles and a-quarter.—Scotia scratch, Vanclare 2sec, Tableau 10sec, Stranger 12sec, Viscount 12sec, All Night 13sec, Te Awahuri 13sec, Royal Albert 22sec, Miss Dunmore 25sec, Mah Honey 25sec, Receiver 28sec, Huon Leal 30sec, Elsie's Child 34sec, Mararoa 34sec, Bert 45sec, Lady Typist 45sec.

AUTUMN HANDICAP, five furlongs and a-half.—Red Lupin 10.3, Peggy Pryde 9.0, Jack Deleval 8.12, Arawa 7.13, Kahoe 7.12, Queensland 7.12, Miss Stella 7.6, Report 7.9, Princess Ena 7.7, Blue Vale 7.6, Saivera 7.3, Maika 7.2, Pairawaatu 7.2, Lord Menschikoff 6.12, Caedmon 6.7.

TAKAPUNA HANDICAP, two miles.—Mandarene scratch, Alf. McKinney 10 sec, John Harold 11sec, Bingana 11sec, Belle Gray 12sec, Autocrat 12sec, General Joubert 12sec, Lady Love 12sec, Baxter 13sec, Lady Wilmington 18sec, Sylvie 18 sec, Count 19sec.

MIDDLE-CLASS HANDICAP, one mile and a-half.—Te Awahuri scratch, War Cloud 7sec, Miss Well Boy 8sec, Lady Wilhelmina 9sec, Our George 9sec, Nelson 9sec, Little Paul 10sec, Gray W. 12 sec, Elsie's Child 12sec, Lady Specialist 12sec, Albert Wilkes 14sec, Echuca 15sec, First Light 15sec, Esperanto 18sec, Bazainite 19sec, Hena 19sec, Black Gin 19sec.

HOBSON HANDICAP, one mile and a-half.—Alf. McKinney scratch, General Joubert 2sec, Undine 6sec, Boadicea 9 sec, Gold Bell 10sec, Receiver 11sec, Annoyed 12sec, Myrtle B. 13sec, Gray W. 15sec, Flora Mac 15sec.



PROFESSOR IRVING, of the Royal Rink, Auckland, Threading the Malze.

CORNWALL HANDICAP, one mile.—Specialist scratch, Papanui 1sec, Maplewood 3sec, Royal Victor 4sec, Belle Gray 6sec, St. Michael 7sec, Cavalier 8sec, Madam Melba 10sec, John Harold 11sec, Lady Richmond 11sec, Robex 11sec, Autocrat 12sec, Yankee Doodle 13sec, Woodbury 13sec.

MARCONI HANDICAP, one mile.—Baron Leugen scratch, Yankee Doodle 4sec, K'rikiriroa 4sec, Rosebud 6sec, Monica 6sec, War Cloud 8sec, Irish Molly 8sec, Previous 8sec, Mah Honey 8sec, Rosie Wilkes 10sec, Our George 19sec, Myrtle B. 11sec, Red Seal 13sec, Lady Specialist 13sec, Thelma McKinney 13sec, Hena 13sec, Bazainite 13sec.

PRACTICES THAT BRING TROT- TING INTO DISREPUTE.

Under the above heading a writer in the Detroit "Free Press" has an interesting article dealing with various practices resorted to by the unscrupulous owners and trainers of trotting horses in the States. The article is as follows:—

"I notice," said an old-time horseman, "that they fined a trotting horse driver 250 dollars for pulling his mount in a final heat of a race during a recent Grand Circuit meeting and declared all bets off on that heat, but let the wagers on the race as a whole stand. That's a sample of the sort of racing that brings the sport into contempt and puts a premium on crookedness. Is it any wonder that the men who are responsible for that sort of racing find themselves objects of ridicule and that the racing governors who permit to find the answer in diminished patronage?"

"Here is a summary of the race referred to. The description of the race is appended, and you will notice it shown that a well-known mare saare w thing shrd cmfw vbgkjqj was a red-hot favourite in the original pooling. She finished last in the first heat, which was won in the very fast time of 2.05 1-4 by a rank outsider whose chances had probably not been taken into consideration at all.

"The second heat was also in 2.05 1-4, and this time the supposedly best horse in the race stepped up and beat the first heat winner in 2.05 1-4, with the favourite third. Does that convey anything to you? No? Well, does the next one, when the original favourite won in time 3 3-4 seconds slower than either of the other heats make it any clearer, particularly when it is shown that the selling on that heat opened with the second heat winner favourite at odds of 100 dollars to 40 dollars against the field, only to close at even money?"

"Something rotten in Denmark evidently. The best horse didn't win; the man who drove him was fined 250 dollars, while those who bet their money on the winner and who were undoubtedly the beneficiaries of the peculiar work won their wagers. The

betting on the final heat should have been an eloquent tip to the judges, but apparently they were not wide-awake to the demands of the position.

"There was a time when they used to put the most prominent men in town in the judges' stand at trotting meetings, regardless of their knowledge of racing, but I thought that day had gone by and that the up-to-date organisations had men thoroughly up in the rules of the sport who would not be afraid to protect the patrons of the game.

"It's the dollar at the gate that keeps the sport alive and enables such associations as the Grand Circuit to exist, and once you raise a suspicion that horse racing is not honest you can hang crepe on your gates and turn your racecourses into truck farms and sheep pastures.

"Do you know who is responsible for it all? The trainer and driver who is base enough to take your money or mine at so much a day to train and race him and who is scoundrel enough to listen to some rascal who fastens himself parasite-like on the sport and follows the horses from town to town.

"It is so easy to drop a heap on a race here and there, and with somebody slumbering in the judges' stand nobody will be the wiser. That's the argument. It all comes back to the old practice in vogue 40 years ago, when the wise drivers used to say: 'Play the box and split the purse.' Nobody will be the wiser except those who lose their money on races like the affair referred to and who will not be caught twice.

"It reminds me of the woman who rouges or the man who touches up his moustache. Nobody knows. No, not a soul, but those whose eyesight needs prompt attention.

"I am sorry to say that there is another class responsible for some of the rough work and in and out racing seen occasionally on the trotting tracks. This is the owner who wants to make a killing with his horse and who believes in a process of education to qualify the animal.

"The method is about like this: Mr. Owner turns his fast prospect over to Mr. Trainer with this instruction, 'Now Bill, this colt can beat 2.20 handily, but he hasn't been legged up to a hard race. Go slow with him and when he's thoroughly ready later on we'll get the coin with him.' The horse could probably start in winning at once, but the cunning owner and his equally cunning, not to say dishonest, accomplice fall into line and the patrons of the particular circuit honoured by their presence are treated to the spectacle of a driver sitting in the sulky like a wooden Indian, and taking quite as much interest in the contest.

"This goes on for perhaps a year, and then when the candidate is well staked in the big future events of the following season a plan of campaign is adopted. All winter long they count the money they expect to win, dream rosy dreams and chuckle over the way they played the public the season before. Not infrequently the driver will tell the owner with a laugh what would have happened at this or that point if the reins had broken, or how lucky it was their horse had been able to make a break when it looked certain he would have to take a heat and a record when they were too close at the finish and something happened to the leaders.

"Spring comes, and Mr. Owner gets ready for his killing. The trainer has his candidate cherry ripe, the day of the race arrives, the money is bet generally at good odds, for there is nothing in the horse's public performances to make the talent go crazy over him, and all seems glad some. But it usually happens that there are several men playing the same game and when Greek meets Greek you know the answer.

"Somebody has to lose, and it isn't pleasant after you have waited a year and let a few thousands in good honest purse money get away from you to wake to the realisation that you have lost your money, perhaps won a heat and worked your horse where he will have to race his head off for the balance of his racing career in order to get any money. There is a phase of this germ that I have never been able to fathom, and that is that the man who 'educates' a horse will come out in print and confess it unblushingly.

"Almost any advertisement offering a promising prospect at the trotting or pacing gaits will contain something like this: 'Trained in 2.10 and raced last year in the slow classes only enough to be thoroughly educated, was second several times, sometimes better than 2.15 over a half mile track. Will show intending purchasers three heats in 2.12 or better. Come and see him and bring your watch.' How about that?"

"And now we come to another class of horse owners. What shall we say of the Simon pure enthusiast who loves a horse for himself and the joy he gets out of seeing him race or in driving or riding him himself? Men of this kind—and the United States and Canada have many of them—are too busily engaged in other pursuits to give close personal attention to the details of their racing stables.

"The colts and older horses are necessarily entrusted to a trainer to be prepared for the races, and that preparation is not infrequently given at a course many hundred miles away from the home farm. The owner may or may not see the horses work before he is summoned to come to a certain point where one of his candidates is to race.

"Perhaps it is a youngster by a favourite sire and out of a prized brood mare, a young thing which he has first seen blinking in the sunshine a few hours after its birth, and whose whole life had been passed under his daily inspection until the day for leaving home had come. Any man who loves a good horse could understand the tenseness of the occasion, the anxiety before the contest, the joy at victory and the regret at defeat.

"For the great colt race for the big stakes I am glad to say there has been little or no scandal, but in the classes for older horses many a man, such as I have tried to describe, has gone a thousand miles to save a race which he had a suspicion probably at the time was not on the level and which he knew positively later on was a prearranged affair.

"Sometimes a trainer who has had good luck with the horses of just such a man, and who has fears that his employer will quit the game, arranges to win at a certain point. He goes to Tom, Dick and Harry and explains the circumstances. Perhaps they may be in the same boat some day, and if they help Bill now they feel that they may depend upon his assistance another day.

"A compact is made, the owner notified that his horse which had thrown a shoe at Detroit, grabbed a boot at Cleveland, been lame at Readville and was taken with the 'thumps' at Hartford, will be 'oil in the can' at Columbus, and we are invited to that city to see the horse parade.

"It comes off generally as per schedule too, especially if you have a somnolent set of officials, and the owner goes home content, the trainer engaged for next year.