

RACING REVIEWED.

MANAWATU RACING CLUB.

ERMENGARDE WINS SIRES' PRODUCE STAKES.

The Manawatu Racing Club concluded a successful meeting last week. The weather was not altogether favourable for the first day but on the second there was a marked improvement. However, although the climatic conditions might have been better, yet the public turned out in large numbers. Thanks to the forethought and thorough organisation of the secretary (Mr J. M. Johnston) and the energy of the stewards the smooth working of arrangements went a long way to counteract the discomforts caused by the weather, and the meeting was in all other respects eminently successful. The totalisator figures for the two days amounted to £26,261 as against £22,874 for the autumn meeting last year. In connection with the working of the totalisator it must be said that Manawatu holds the palm for possessing the best totalisator facilities so far seen this season. The tote house is convenient and affords ample room for coping with a big turn-over without any crowding, so that the announcing and paying out of dividends is effected most expeditiously.

The racing on Thursday was of a distinctly interesting order and some excellent finishes were witnessed. Although the dividends were not large, not a single first favourite secured a winning bracket. In the first four races the second fancy triumphed as it did also in the Autumn Handicap. Elfish, in the Ava Hack Welter, paid the best winning dividend of the day and that did not reach double figures.

A field of eight turned out for the Kairanga Hurdles and notwithstanding the poor performance of Silva on the previous day he was again made favourite and again failed to justify the confidence of the public. Tyrannic was in front in the early stages, but then Golden Water later came to the front and got such a big break that the race looked all over. A faulty jump at the second last hurdle, however, brought him back to the field, and Waterworks beat him home quite easily by two and a half lengths, with Koran three lengths back.

The Stonyhurst Welter was a good betting race, and the public found some difficulty in selecting a favourite. When the machine closed Matlow was actual favourite. Blakeney made the running in the early stages, but he was done with a long way from home, and over the last three furlongs the issue was chiefly between Bonnie Boy and Matlow. At the distance it was a ding-dong go between them, but the former lasted best and won by a length. Turna, who came very fast from a long way back, was two lengths off, followed by Kauroa, Blakeney, Negative and Kilosteri. The winner showed a big improvement on his first day's running. Matlow also ran better.

A dozen contested the Cloverlea Handicap, and backers were not far astray in making Lady Volga and Mount Victoria favourites. The latter, as usual, began very smartly, with Lady Volga next, but with heads turned for home Miss Vena came at the leader, and the battle up the straight was exciting. They ran locked together all the way up the straight, McDonald just getting Mount Victoria home by a neck according to the judge's verdict, although it looked closer. Lady Volga was two lengths off, followed by Handsome Maid and Septimus. The going appeared to anchor Parewanui, who steadily dropped back after a good start.

There were only four left in the Sires' Produce Stakes, and the race was looked upon as a match between Brown Owl and Ermengarde. It was a poor race, however, for Ermengarde, beginning in her usual brilliant style, was soon four lengths clear, and the race was over, for nothing could head her, and she fairly romped home three lengths ahead of Brown Owl, who just beat Bon Ton by a length, with Prince Soult three lengths off. There is no doubt the "Highten" two-year-old is a remarkably brilliant filly, and Oliver rode a nice race on her, easing her up a bit rounding the bend. As usual Brown Owl began badly, being last away.

She was tiring fast at the finish, and in a few more lengths Bon Ton would have beaten her.

Distinction was again made favourite for the Hack Flying, while Mallard's win on the first day gave him a substantial following. Merrimac made the pace from start to finish, with Moutoa Girl, Mallard and Septimus in close order. At the head of the straight the leaders were well bunched, but in the straight Merrimac went out and won very easily by two lengths from Moutoa Girl, who was three lengths ahead of Kina.

The Autumn Handicap was to some extent spoiled by Boanerges, the favourite, being left standing at the starting post when the barrier lifted. The horses were in a line when the lever was released, but Boanerges refused to leave the mark, and he interfered with Plantation, the result being that both were left. Mira cut out the running from Coromandel, and at the bend Mulga Bill joined the pair. The grey then dropped out, but Mulga Bill and Coromandel fought out a bitter battle to the box, Deeley just getting the former home by a neck. Mira was eight lengths off, followed by Waipaku and Flingot. Mulga Bill's performance was a good

autumn meeting proved a most successful one. The fields were big, and the racing of a particularly interesting order, while the management of the meeting left nothing to be desired. On Saturday the attendance was good, and as a result speculation was brisk. Although a good deal of money was shut out, through investors crowding round the totalisator at the last minute, the returns showed a substantial increase on the last autumn meeting. The figures for the two days, as compared with last year, were as follow:—

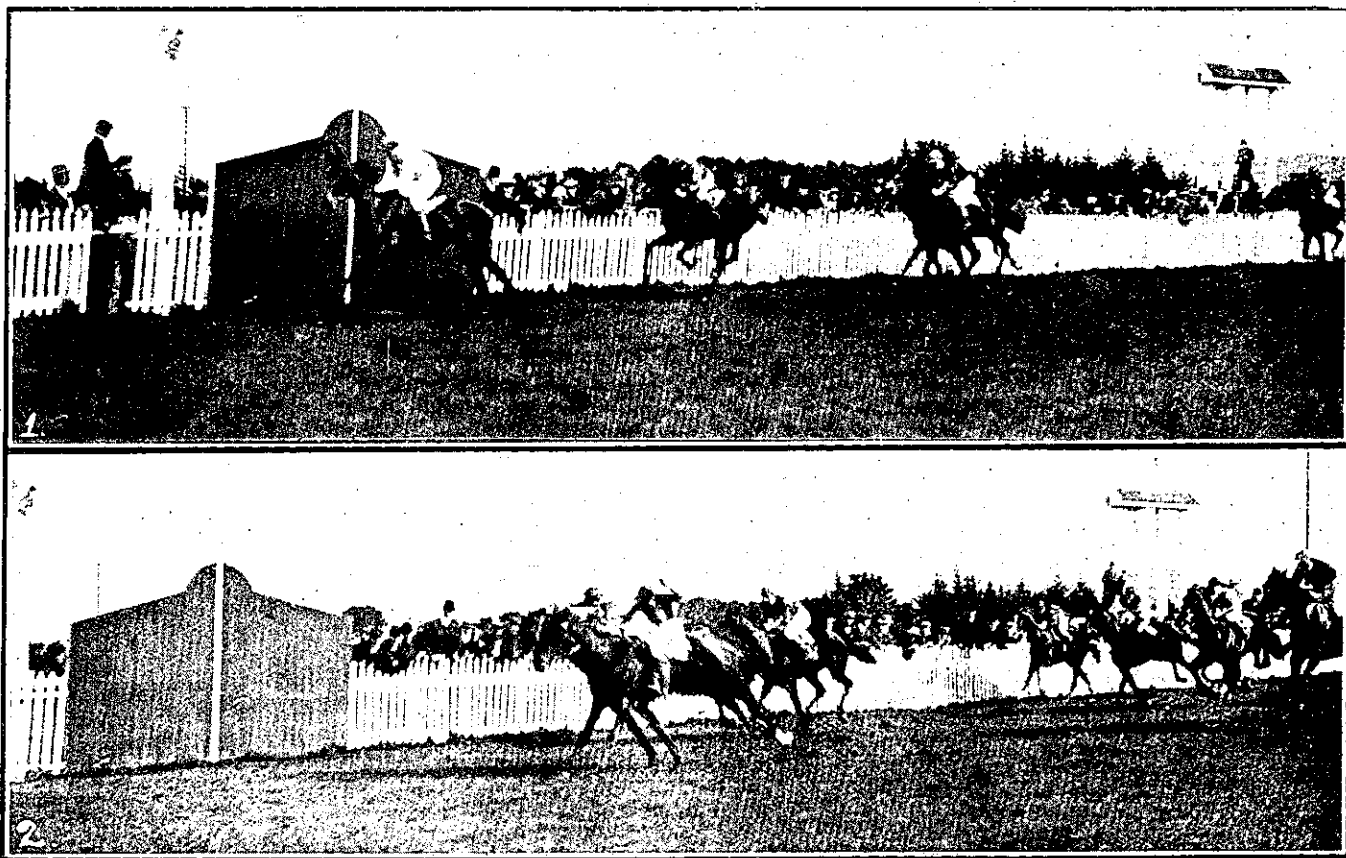
	1911.	1912.
	£.	£.
First day ..	11,654½	11,012
Second day ..	9,674½	17,482
	21,329	28,494

On Saturday afternoon the flags on the course were lowered to half-mast out of respect for the late Mr James Roulston, the veteran Pukekohe sportsman, who died on Friday last.

Despite the very heavy rains that fell on Friday and Saturday morning the track was in very fair order, which speaks well of the excellent work that has been done on it during

The Autumn Handicap puzzled the punters a good deal, for they had some difficulty in selecting their fancy from the ten well-turned-out candidates. When the machine eventually closed St. Amans was at the head of the list, with Gloy, Sea Elf, La Reina, and Royal Soult next in order of favouritism. Sea Pink was early out in form, and with Gloy as a close attendant, acted as pacemaker until the straight was reached, when he faded away and left Gloy and Sea Elf to fight out conclusions. The two came down the straight, bumping one another from side to side, and when the post was reached were practically locked together, and the decision was a dead heat. Although the two jockeys, Stockley and Poulgrain, strained every nerve to win, neither could be said to have shown much horsemanship.

Red Lupin went out an odds-on favourite for the Dominion Handicap, and fully justified the confidence placed in him. Before half the distance was covered he had a break of a dozen lengths in the field, and eventually won with ease. Bow Bells, who ran second to Waiovera in the



SEMOLINA (P. Brady) brings off a surprise victory by defeating the odds-on favourite, POTOA (J. O'Shea) in the Nursery Handicap (six furlongs) at the Avondale Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting. LANNACOST third.

A GREAT FINISH IN THE PRINCIPAL EVENT ON THE CONCLUDING DAY OF THE AVONDALE JOCKEY CLUB'S MEETING.—SEA ELF (Poulgrain), on outside, and GLOY (Stockley) run a dead heat in the Autumn Handicap (one mile and a furlong), with ROYAL SOULT (P. Brady), third.

one, as he got badly away, and was last down the back, having a lot of ground to make up.

Morning, who ran well on the opening day, was a better favourite than Leonta in the Ava Hack Welter, and this provided a good race. Morning was first away, and then alternately Queen of Scots, Florence Nightingale, Waitoto and Moahau had a turn at pace making. In the straight the field was bunched, but from the distance Elfish and Leonta drew out, and the former got home by two lengths, with Morning a length off, followed by Strategist and Queen of Scots.

The meeting was brought to a close with the Borough Handicap, in which Boanerges and Hermia met with most support. Boanerges and Waiouru refused to face the barrier, and when at last they were dispatched Waiouru got a good break, Rangiatua and Boanerges being the last to leave. Waiouru was far ahead at the bend, where the race looked all over, but he failed to finish it out, and Mon Ami, coming with a great rattle, beat him home by nearly two lengths, with Hermia a poor third. Gladiole was fourth.

AVONDALE JOCKEY CLUB.

SECOND DAY.

DEAD HEAT IN BIG RACE.

The Avondale Jockey Club has achieved well-merited popularity with Auckland racegoers, and it was consequently not surprising that, despite far from favourable weather, their

the summer. Apart from being a trifle sort and holding, there was nothing to complain of as regards the going.

Nine youngsters lined up for the Nursery Handicap, of which Potoa was made a firm favourite, due to his fine display on the first day, while Lannacost, who came fresh to the fray, was also well supported. The winner, however, turned up in Semolina, an outsider, from Dick Hannon's stable. As the field passed the stand Potoa looked a safe winner, but the little Gluten filly put in a brilliant spurt from the distance and won nicely.

The Flying Handicap proved a good betting race, for of the thirteen contestants Crown Pearl, Salute, Waiovera, and Mighty Atom were all well backed. When it came to racing, however, Waiovera outclassed her opponents, and with the assistance of Deeley scored an easy victory. Bow Bells, one of the least fancied, came fast at the end, and paid a satisfactory dividend, while earning a number of admirers for her next effort later in the day.

Of the fourteen maiden jumpers to contest the hurdle race, Heyboy, a big chestnut, was installed favourite on appearances, while Napenape came next in public favour on account of his exertion on Wednesday.

Heyboy was early out with the leaders, and jumped well, but going along the back in the last round he died away badly. Napenape, who played a waiting game, came through at the end, and won comfortably. The little-fancied Pip acted as runner-up.

Flying, again earned second money.

The steeplechase proved the best betting race of the day, but it also proved a disappointment, because out of ten starters only four negotiated the first obstacle successfully. Mildura and Ben Jonson, who started out as pacemakers, both came down, and brought down or stopped Tui Cakobau, Commander, Rebel, and Himakaha, which only left Pleiades, First Barrel, Taiaha, and Hautere to continue the chase. Although the field was so reduced it was not robbed of interest, because the last round saw some sea-sawing for supremacy, and it was only when the last jump was cleared that the favourite, Pleiades, could be regarded as a winner. Taiaha tired in the final run home.

Of the eighteen horses that started in the Mt. Roskill Handicap, Glenfern was installed a warm favourite, but although he looked a safe winner when the stand was reached he had to surrender to Ngatimuru, who came with a great burst of speed from the distance, and snatched victory by half a length.

The Waitakere Handicap, with fourteen starters brought the meeting to a close. The race was run in semi-darkness, and resulted in a win for Salute, who was favourite, with Cloudy Dawn, an outsider, second.

Southern exchanges state that Belah showed capital form in the Timaru Cup, being only beaten by a length after making most of the running.