

# INTERPROVINCIAL

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.)

## WELLINGTON.

Wellington R.C.'s Successful Winter Gathering—Active Preparations for Marton J.C.'s Spring Fixture—Notes on the First Day's Racing at Trentham.

### WELLINGTON, Monday.

The winter meeting of the Wellington Racing Club, which was brought to a conclusion on Saturday last, was easily the most successful fixture held at that particular period of the year at Trentham. The attendance on both days constituted a record, while the investments on the totalisator revealed a similar gratifying state of affairs. Everybody connected with the management worked zealously, and in this direction the efforts of Mr. A. E. Whyte, the secretary, in making every provision for the welfare of the club's patrons were very keenly appreciated. Certainly all concerned deserve credit on the success of the two days' gathering.

The approach of the early spring fixtures is heralded by the excellent programme that has been issued by the Marton Jockey Club for their spring meeting (one day), which is set down for decision on September 1. Very liberal stakes are offered, and as quite a number of horses have been kept busy during the winter the fixture should prove a pronounced success. In a conversation with the club's popular secretary, Mr. A. Way, last week, he informed me that the officials of that enterprising body were all working hard with a view to making the gathering thoroughly enjoyable to all concerned. Nominations for all events close on August 13.

For a beginner at the jumping business, Merry Andrew (Birkenhead—Marionette) showed up well at Trentham. The gelding gives every promise of paying his way at the illegitimate game.

Sweet Tipperary showed a lot of pace for five furlongs in the Stewards' Handicap (six furlongs) on the opening day of the Wellington R.C. meeting, but the heavy going found the black mare out and she finished out of a place. The descendant of King's Guest—Golden Ball mare can be depended upon to carry her owners' (Messrs. Dwan Bros.) colours in a creditable manner next season.

Southland, whom A. Julian brought to Trentham, was not suited by the heavy going, and the gelding did well to get fourth in the Hack and Hunters' Steeplechase on Wednesday. The Waiuku-owned gelding was not accepted for on the second day, but Mr. Reid's horse gave critics the impression that he would do better later on.

It will soon become a difficult proposition to put Bestir (Bezonian—Prevail) where he can earn something towards his upkeep. A fine stamp of a galloper, with big sinewy quarters, this rising three-year-old colt looked well enough to beat any thing at Trentham, but he finished well behind the placed division in the Trial Plate on the opening day. Bestir was well placed entering the straight, but failed to come on. He may do better as a three-year-old, for his appearance certainly points this way.

Hallifax (Hallowmas—Happy Maid) ran a good race in the Trial Plate at Trentham, finishing fourth. The two-year-old colt can be depended upon to bring prestige to J. Ayres' stable at some of the early spring fixtures.

Listowel had bad luck to bump a good one in Battle Knight in the Trial Plate on the opening day at Trentham. Listowel was the smartest out when the tapes lifted, and was soon many lengths in front entering the straight and at the distance looked an almost certain winner, but by sheer gameness Battle Knight plodded on and, finishing resolutely, caught the favourite in the run to the post and won comfortably by a couple of lengths. The winner, who is a rising three-year-old gelding by Solferino—Madama, owned by Mr. H. M. Campbell, should prove a useful proposition in racing affairs next season.

All Cerise and Admyra proved very costly to followers of track form on the opening day at Trentham. Both horses had been doing well, and their failures were very discomfiting to many sporting adherents who hail

from the Wanganui and Rangitikei districts. The heavy going may have affected their prospects, for they were not produced on the second day.

## SOUTHLAND.

P. T. Hogan's Team Leaves for Riccarton—South Canterbury Hunt Fixture—F. Hill Educating Winton Stakes Candidate in a Filly by Calibre—Dunedin J.C.'s Highly Satisfactory Season—Improved Totalisator Arrangement Forecasted at Dunedin and Southland Meetings.

### INVERCARGILL, Saturday.

Heavy rain fell during the current week, putting the local tracks out of use for the longest period of a comparatively mild winter so far. However, road work appears to agree with many of the horses, the variety and strange scene appealing to equines as well as to their masters.

On Thursday a lengthy string of horses from the Rorke's Drift Lodge was entrained for the north, the most prominent of the number being Almoner, Calma, Dunmure, and Bengeroop. Several hunters and the rising two-year-olds St. Brenden and Song Bird were included in the team. P.

totalisator fixture, afterwards continuing his journey to Riccarton, from where he will work the Brackenfield gathering prior to the Grand National meeting.

F. Hill is at present educating a handsome rising three-year-old filly by Calibre—Feedalma, by Gipsy Grand—Neva (dam of Danube). The sister to Calma and Centimeter, who has been favourably treated since being purchased here at a sale in January last of horses bred by Mr. J. N. Grigg, of Longbeach, is being got ready to make her first public appearance in the Winton Stakes Handicap in November next. Calibre mares have not been very successful racehorses as a rule, but the filly referred to is of different make and shape to the general run of female progeny of the Light Artillery stallion. She is brown in colour, and obviously throws back to the Stepniak side of the horse.

The progress of the Dunedin Jockey Club during the last few years and the popularity of meetings held at Wingatui have been remarkable, hence it is not surprising to find that the club to date has experienced a very successful season. Starting the financial year with a cash balance of £2396 odd, and notwithstanding the large expenditure in improvements, maintenance, and increased prize money, their balance to-day is £2638. When it is claimed that the past season has been the most successful in the history of the club the position is not being overstated, and hearty congratulations have therefore to be extended to our friends over the border, for sportsmen in this district

## WAIRARAPA.

Number of Horses Being Got Ready for Spring Fixtures—Master Boris Still Amiss—Torfreda Nominated for Brackenfield Hunt Meeting—Raceful's Promising Prospects as a Three-year-old—Mr. W. R. Kemball Probably Send Team North for Avondale Spring Fixture—Master-ton Stables Well Represented in Manawatu R.C.'s Classic Events.

### MASTERTON, Saturday.

Elcullus is now being trained at Carterton by his owner, Mr. H. Jensen. The gelding has come on a lot lately, and is expected to turn out a useful performer next season.

Ohiti is being kept going at Opaki by W. Garrett, and will be seen out again at the early spring meetings. It is thought that when the tracks are firmer the gelding will give a much better account of himself.

The local lightweight R. S. Bagby, who has been well up in the list of winning jockeys during the past three seasons, is fourth on the list this year, he having ridden over 40 winners. Bagby is still attached to J. T. Jamieson's stable.

A. Crawford has O'Rane (Elevation—Lethe mare) going along nicely in his work at Tauherenikau, and Mr. Barton's gelding can be looked upon as a likely winner early in the new season.

T. Higgins is not doing much with Timidity and Lady Witchet just now, and the only active member of the stable is Scornful. The latter is a greatly improved animal since going into Higgins' stable. Lady General



MRS. CHAS. ELGAR, OF WELLINGTON, WITH HER PROMISING RISING TWO-YEAR-OLD COLT ZENITH, BY BONIFORM—VICELLA.

Hogan will not be represented in the Grand National Steeplechase this year, much as he would like to saddle up a competitor for the big cross-country race, but it is very likely that he will strip the winners of some of the minor events, while Bengeroop must hold a fair outside chance in the C.J.C. Winter Cup or some other event of similar class.

Wednesday of the coming week will mark the occasion of the Birchwood Hunt annual flag steeplechase at Otautau, for which quite a number of horses have been qualifying for some time past. Several promising novices will be tried out in the light and heavy-weight classes, for which several coveted trophies are on offer. Provided the maiden performers referred to acquit themselves with credit they will probably be regularly trained for the Otago Hunt totalisator meeting and early spring steeplechasing at Winton and elsewhere.

When following the Birchwood pack last week Dunmure struck a wire in a small gorse fence, with the result that he got a heavy fall, but escaped unhurt. Not so J. McChesney, however, the Glenapp gelding striking him on the head with one of his feet. The well-known cross-country horseman did not permit the happening to interfere with his programme, and he left for Timaru several days later to fulfil riding engagements at the South Canterbury Hunt fixture.

Trainer P. Hogan will probably tarry at Timaru for the local hunt

consider themselves as representing a separate province even though they are controlled from Otago under the rules of racing.

The dispute in regard to the date (March 17) between the Southland Racing Club and the Waimate Racing Club has been settled in favour of the latter body. The Southland R.C.'s autumn fixture next season will now take place on March 9 and 10, the Gore R.C.'s fixture being listed for the previous week. This arrangement should meet with everybody's approval, and seems to be a very satisfactory solution of the problem.

The Otago and Southland totalisator contractor, Mr. W. F. James, is about to pay a visit to Sydney, where he no doubt will closely study the working of the electric wagering machine in use at Randwick. It is an open secret that the Dunedin Jockey Club intend installing a mechanical betting agent in the near future, a fact which may have something to do with the trip which Mr. James is undertaking. The Southland Racing Club have also considered the fact that new totalisator arrangements will be necessary in Invercargill in the near future.

There is no necessity to hold an election in connection with the appointment of office-bearers for the Dunedin Jockey Club for the ensuing season, Messrs. A. C. Hanlon and L. C. Hazlett being returned unopposed as president and vice-president respectively. Mr. Hanlon is a very popular head to the metropolitan body, while he is always inclined to any progressive proposals or innovations likely to advance his club. As vice-president Mr. Hazlett is an expert on racing procedure and law, and he is possessed of very wide experience where course, track, and other appointments have to be established.

is wintering well, but is not likely to be persevered with.

Master Boris went amiss on the eve of the Wellington meeting, and had to forego his engagements there. It seems unlikely that the gelding will be able to race for a lengthy period. This is bad luck for his owner, as it was intended to race him at the Grand National meeting next month.

J. T. Jamieson returned from the south during the week, where he had been to see how his four horses held up at Riccarton were getting on. They were all doing well, and Torfreda has been nominated for the Brackenfield meeting.

Red Ribbon had anything but a good run in the Parliamentary Handicap at Trentham, and this, combined with her big weight, stopped her from getting into the money, although she was close up when the post was reached. The mare will now be settled.

For the office of president of the Masterton Racing Club, Mr. C. F. Vallance has been elected unopposed, and also the two vice-presidents, Messrs. J. Iorns and W. Cooper. As there were more names received for the office of stewards, an election will be held at the annual meeting of the club at the end of the present month.

Raceful (Martian—Rose Red) has come on a lot lately, and is pleasing his trainer by the way he is getting through his work at Opaki. Mr. Kemball's colt promises to turn out a good three-year-old, and all going well will be taken to Avondale for the Guineas in September. Another Masterton owner in Mr. A. McDonald is represented at the same fixture, he having engaged two in the Avondale Stakes and three in the Guineas. Although at present nothing has been decided definitely, W. Hawthorne hopes to have half a dozen horses racing at

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