



The financial success of the Otahuhu Trotting Club's spring meeting has been in keeping with the success of the racing clubs which have held meetings in Auckland during the past two months. They have each had most profitable meetings, and so have all the clubs throughout New Zealand, the Auckland meetings with the larger attendances showing the larger corresponding increases in money handled. This means well for the clubs, more especially those needing all their profits to help them pay for their courses and the necessary improvements to accommodate their horse-owning patrons and the public for whom they are catering to the best of their ability. The totalisator is the main source of revenue, and the clubs everywhere are making every effort to get together all the money they can through its agency so as to be able to keep up their status and play the racing game as it should be played if it is to maintain its popularity. Perhaps when we have an increase in the number of days of racing the leading clubs may resort to seven races per day on their programmes, only having eight when it is deemed advisable to divide a large field for safety's sake. Seven races are quite sufficient under any circumstances with the long intervals the clubs make between the events. There is one alternative if the eight races are to be retained, and that is to start earlier each day. In Australia the leading clubs have six races and it is a pleasure to see how they manage at Randwick, where they cater for the best horse in every department, allowing the minor clubs to cater for the lower class material. With growing attendances it should be a consideration with clubs not only to provide all the necessary accommodation on their courses but to make sure that their patrons will suffer as little inconvenience as possible in getting away from the course after the sport is over. Earlier finishing would be much more preferable to existing conditions at Auckland meetings, near the metropolis. The Avondale Jockey Club and Whangarei Racing Club led the way and people got back to the city from the meetings of these clubs earlier than from either the Takapuna Jockey Club or Otahuhu Trotting Club's meetings, earlier indeed than from Ellerslie.

Our Clubman page this week is adorned with a portrait of Major S. Bolton, a well-known and popular personality in the Woodville district, who has been closely identified with the progress of this portion of New Zealand for upwards of a quarter of a century. Born in Scotland, where his father was M.P. for Stirling in the House of Commons, Major Bolton came out to the Dominion when a young man, and engaged in pastoral pursuits. He subsequently married Miss Hindmarsh and settled on his homestead at Oete, near Mangatainoka, which he has farmed for thirty years and where he still resides. Major Bolton was for many years a member of the Pahiatua County Council, and was recently re-elected for another term. He stood for the Pahiatua seat some years back in the Conservative interest, but was defeated. All along he has taken an active interest in the Volunteer movement, and for a considerable time was in command of the Pahiatua Mounted Rifles, his admirable work being greatly appreciated, while his promotion to the rank of major was proof of the high regard in which he was held in military circles. Major Bolton has invariably been a keen advocate of all branches of sport, and for many years has filled the position of president of the Woodville District Jockey Club, and in that official capacity he has been indefatigable in his efforts to further the interests of this progressive country racing institution. For many years he was president of the Woodville Agricultural and Pastoral Association, and still retains the position of patron. Major Bolton is well-known in the show ring as a breeder of milking Shorthorns, and many of the

most successful representatives of this famous strain first saw the light of day at Oete, which shelters the highest pedigreed and best milk-producing cattle to be found in New Zealand. It can therefore be readily understood that when Shorthorns bred by Major Bolton are available for sale keen rivalry takes place for their possession. In this connection he has made a specialty of the Shorthorn, and his efforts in producing a capital milking strain have been appreciated by those engaged in the dairying industry throughout the Dominion, proof of this being furnished by the excellent prices obtained for Shorthorns that come from Major Bolton's breeding establishment. Major Bolton has many wide financial interests, while he is also a director of several companies. Through his unfailing courtesy and honesty of purpose Major

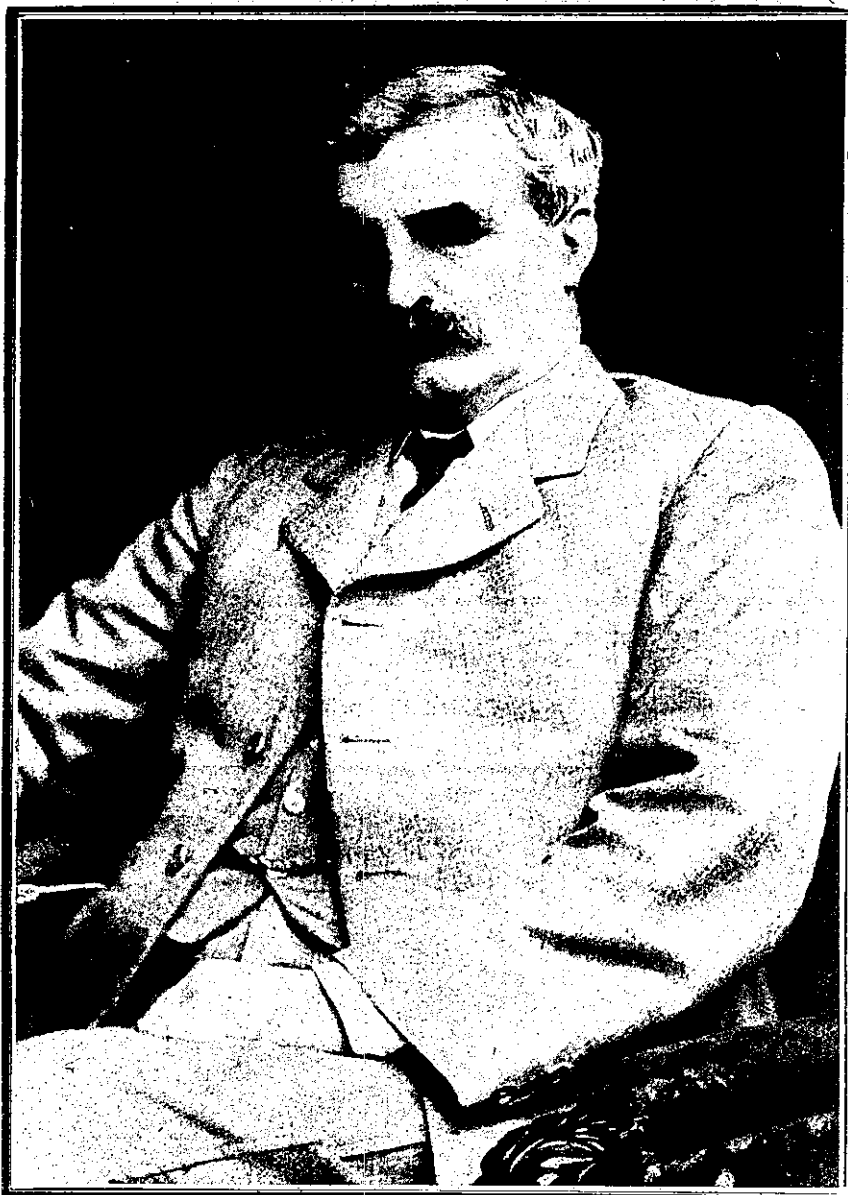
venient than it was a few years ago. It certainly costs more. There is more to be won, and proportionately the cost of nominating and accepting and racing, outside of the ordinary travelling expenses, may not have increased in the same ratio. A good healthy nomination list, followed by a correspondingly good acceptance, indicates that there is plenty of money in the game, just as the totalisator returns over meetings point to the spending powers of a very large section of lovers of sport on their chief pastime. It is a barometer of the times, showing the popularity of the horse-racing sport in all its branches. It has been a wonderful season so far as it has gone in all respects. Clubs everywhere in the North Island, and nearly all, if not actually all, in the South Island—racing and trotting—have been receiving larger entries

mission temporarily, but is a good four-year-old, and over each of the three distances named would not disgrace himself. The Englishman Arrowsmith would be found playing his part well from six furlongs to a mile and a-quarter with most of the English importations. Gloaming, whose good qualities were elucidated in New Zealand, though an Australian-bred horse from Australian parents, and a splendid Australian record also, would beat anything his age from six furlongs probably up to a mile and a-half. Duo and Gasbag, three-year-old sons of Demosthenes, are proved stayers with a bit of class about them. Humbug, Absurd's son, can go fast up to a mile, and Chryscostom is an improving customer who can go fast and promises to go a good middle distance. The mare that can beat Oratress from a mile and a-quarter to two miles at even weights might not be discovered this season in the Commonwealth even after a deal of searching. Another Demosthenes, we heard someone remark when she won the New Zealand Cup, what a pity we have not more mares by that distinguished sire.

Mermin is the colt most people would select of our two-year-olds. He is another of the Absurd flyers of his age, and travels like a stayer, and though so far only a winner of the four classic four-furlong races he has contested, and against only those of his own age, has given evidence that he can do his bit as a racing machine with all credit—indeed, in such a way as to lead those who have seen him race to conclude that he will follow in the footsteps of illustrious predecessors when asked to go over a bit of extra distance. Rational has not been entered for the A.R.C. meeting. He has won four times and been twice beaten. Mermin beat him with the luck in starting against him, and Gloaming triumphed over him also. Gloaming was the quicker away. The cracks don't want to loiter when Rational gets going. That gelding is another of Absurd's sons. He will stay on, we would imagine. Maunu, by Wolawa, once properly going can get in some great work, and a furlong or two more ground than he has raced over will likely suit him nicely. The Hawk raced well in Canterbury, and may be of the same class. There are a number of others with plenty of galloping ability in the events in which two-year-olds are to run, and some should develop into usefulness when this season has passed over. A bit of time to furnish and grow could be permitted some of them to their ultimate advantage. It seems a pity that some were raced so early.

There are some horses of varying ages in the flat races that we have not seen the best of. They are in a developing stage, and probably when the season is over there will be reason to elevate a few to higher pedestals than we have so far selected for them. The Derby field may at barrier rise number half a dozen of the eight figuring therein, but should it not be so there may be sufficient to provide a contest for the three prizes. Gasbag is the one commonly supposed to be the best, and he will likely have raced in the Auckland Cup and possibly on the second day of the meeting. There will be others racing of his age, too, before they meet for the classic honours, and Landslide, Listowel and Winter Wind, as the respective winners of the Avondale, Auckland, and Dunedin Guineas; Vespucci, who was good enough to set a solid pace in the A.J.C. Derby and won a race at Randwick; Right and Left, a winner at Riccarton, and Raceful, a winner at Feilding, are each of the field. Vespucci, it is thought, may be improved as much as any of his age that ran at Riccarton. On appearances most like a Derby proposition is Gasbag.

When the two, three and four-year-olds engaged in the Royal Stakes come to meet on weight-for-age conditions, with penalties according to age, sex and value of stakes won, without penalties when the stakes earned have been small, and with al-



MAJOR S. BOLTON, of Oete, near Mangatainoka, a prominent Shorthorn breeder, who is well-known in racing circles as president of the Woodville District Jockey Club, whose spring meeting is being held this week.

Bolton has endeared himself to a wide circle of friends, and as he is still a man in the prime of life there should still be many years of usefulness ahead of him in the district that he has so worthily assisted towards the prosperity which it now enjoys.

The Auckland Trotting Club's nominations give evidence that there are plenty of owners, local and from outside provinces and districts, who have designs on and are likely to be reaching for the rich prizes at the summer meeting. The entries, indeed, are record ones in the aggregate at least, if not for each particular event. That is as it should be. The track and stand accommodation has been vastly improved, the owners have everything as up-to-date as it is possible for the club to provide at the present time, and the prize money is so good that it was bound to have a magnetic attraction for those with horses that have any pretensions to sufficient class to win. Travelling horses to and from meetings has not been made much if really more con-

and more money from other sources as well as from the totalisator, and the trotting clubs are quite holding their own in public favour. Mr. C. F. Mark, secretary of the Auckland Trotting Club, has reason to be gratified with the first response owners have made to the first meeting his club will hold this season.

The Auckland Racing Club has the same pleasing experience as in former years. One year's entries exceed those of another. It has been the same for a considerable time past. Class is thoroughly represented in the different races. The best in nearly each department are as good, no doubt, as anything in our sister States. Allow us to pick our horses for certain contests and there would be a big chance of some of the prizes being retained against all invaders. We would not go outside the entry list for the Auckland meeting to select a horse to pit against Poirrel on weight-for-age conditions over a mile, a mile and a-half and two miles. Amythas has been placed out of com-