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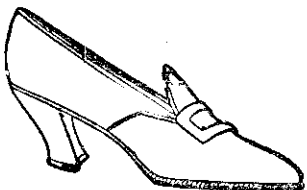
Agents:

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SPORTING.

Friday.—Otautau races.

Wednesday.—Wairoa races.

First race at Wairoa on Wednesday, 1 p.m.

Otautau acceptances on Saturday evening.

La Palmas has gone wrong and has been turned out.

Acceptances for the Wairoa meeting close this evening.

Lady Joffre has met with an accident and will be another unlikely starter at Wairoa.

The nominations for the Tapanui meeting on 23 inst. easily constitute a record for the inland club.

Kilkee won both the Wairoa and Otautau Cup races last year. He isn't engaged in the these races next week but Linden is, and he might win a double.

A horsethat looks sure to win a race next week is Red Admiral, and I wouldn't put the best race of the two days past him.

The maiden trotter Hylas got into a wire fence, writes our South Hillend correspondent, and got so badly cut that he will not be a starter at Wairoa.

If Hagerty's on him my money will be on Dunmore in the Wairea Leapchase. The course will suit him well, and the distance is just the full journey. Tom Kett's neddly can go well.

Anyone who saw Buller at work in the Shorts Handicap on the second day of the Invercargill meeting should remember the effort he made, when trying to select a winner for the Flying Handicap at Otautau next Friday. They are a poor lot of sprinters to be as near him in the card.

Mandrake isn't engaged at Wairoa and to make up for it he has been extensively nominated at Otautau. He was running on well in the first mile race at Invercargill, and has not been harshly treated by Abbey Jones in the mile welter at Otautau. He beat Hineamaru out of sight and is now meeting her on 3lbs better terms.

If old "York's Drift" is only a-quarter of his old self, won't he slate the mob in the Wairoa Cup when it comes to racing over the last quarter of a mile. He tried to win this cup some years ago, but Marsa beat him badly, and then the "old horth" went on and won the Dunedin Cup and the big handicap on the third day just a month later.

The Clifden Cup this year will be worth £110 and is for hacks only. The whole programme is for hacks, and as there is plenty of this class of horse about the club should receive good nominations. Abbey Jones, of Winton (the other Abbey is back from his world tour now), will frame the handicaps, and nominations close on February 5.

The Clifden Club has issued its programme for the annual race-meeting, on February 23rd, and gives £550 in stakes. The programme draws special attention to the "picturesque course," and the Club boasts of no less than twenty-six stewards. I should think that if there are any settlers in the district who are not included they must feel slighted.

Though he won five races straight on end Mazama did not beat a good field in any one of the five races, and in his last effort gained more advantage at the start than the margin he won by, while none of the races were longer than a mile. In giving the son of King's Guest and Elaird 10st 12lbs in the Otautau Cup Abbey has dealt to him a heavy load indeed. Taking a line through the New Year meeting handicaps, Abbey makes him out to be 8lbs better than Radial over a mile and a quarter, 16lbs better than Silver Peak, and 26lbs better than Rorke's Drift and Eleus. In his past performances, that is before coming into Mr Hazlett's stable Mazama had the reputation of being a stayer, but he would need more than a reputation to be entitled to be handicapped in this manner. In the

Wrey's Bush Welter over a mile, Mazama is handicapped by Abbey Jones to give Linden 26lbs, and in the Otautau Cup, a quarter of a mile longer he has to give Linden 39lbs, and yet Linden ran Warlove to a head over a mile and a-quarter at Dunedin on Boxing Day at a difference of 14lbs. But then Abbey didn't see them going round the course at Wingatui.

Bill stone, Alex McIvor, George Young and three horses have sailed for Wellington. All three were well pleased with the weight allotted Eleus in the Wellington Cup, and it is just on the cards he might take it out. But there are better cattle to beat than he met at Invercargill! Silver Peak is just brilliant enough to do anything, and of the pair I like her chance best. Roseday, the third in the team, might have won a race at Wairoa!

An excellent train service for both horses and the public has been arranged for the Wairoa meeting next Wednesday. A special train for horses with carriages attached leaves Invercargill at 7.35 a.m. The ordinary 8.30 a.m. train will pick up passengers at side stations, and a fast special only stopping at Otautau will leave Invercargill at 10.35 a.m., arriving Wairoa at 12.20 p.m. As the first race has been timed for 1 p.m. This will give passengers plenty of time to reach the course before the machine will close for the first race. Returning trains will leave Wairoa, non stop between Wairoa and Invercargill at 6.30 p.m., and others at 7 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. The 7 p.m. train connects with a special to Orepuki. Horses will be returned to Invercargill and Riverton by the 7.30 p.m. train.

GORE NOTES.

The "Mataura Ensign" reports:—

For the Gore Racing Club's March meeting a programme on the same lines as last year has been drawn up. The programme has yet to be approved by the Dunedin District Committee and the Trotting Association.

The starting of Mr W. Norman at the Southland Summer Meeting has come in for a good deal of criticism, but it should be remembered that Mr Norman only took up the task to see the club over its troubles. In regard to starting, Mr F. Wallis has had no equal in Southland.

Mr W. F. Dunne, the new handicapper for the Southland Racing Club, only met with moderate success as judged by the acceptances, but as the club had a record meeting he may get a better acceptance list for the March meeting.

The two-year-old pacer Downcast, by Adonis—Satinwood, is reported to have been taken to Ashburton by Mr D. Warren. There were a number of inquiries for the purchase of this horse after his excellent showing at Wyndham on New Year's Day, but nothing has leaked out as to whether he was sold or leased.

Inquiries are being made on all hands for the purchase of Mr J. M. Peart's mare, Nellie Scott. It is understood that W. Fleming, of Christchurch, the well-known trainer, made a special offer for this mare, and that F. E. Jones, of Timaru, made a special trip to Gore to try and buy her. The writer first picked out this mare as one of the best maidens ever seen out at Gore. J. McLennan and A. Pringle, of Dunedin, also approached Mr Peart in regard to the lease of the mare. From the writer's point of view Mr Peart is foolish in not accepting some of the offers of leasing the mare, as he has no possible chance of training her properly. The price asked for the mare is £600, but at this figure there is not much chance of a sale. Mr Peart has a particularly good pacer, but the mare has not a chance of showing her best under the conditions in which she is trained. The writer understands that Mr Gardiner, a Gore amateur, will drive Nellie Scott in the Winton Trotting Cup.

The greatest known distance to which sound has been carried through the atmosphere is 345 miles, as it is asserted that the very violent explosions of the volcano at St. Vincent have been heard at Demerara. Sounds travels farther and less of its intensity in passing through the earth than through the air.

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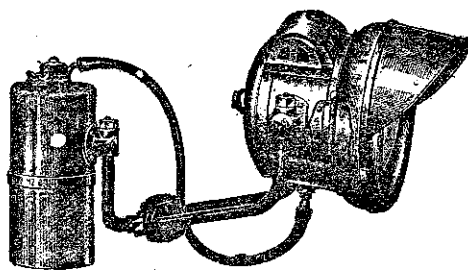
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