

SPORTING FIXTURES, ETC.

COMING EVENTS.

July 11	Wellington R.C. Winter meeting
July 11, 18	V.R.C. Grand National Hurdles and Steeplechase
July 18	Wellington Hunt Club
Aug. 13	N.Z. Grand National Steeplechase meeting
Aug. 15	Christchurch Hunt Club
Sep. 12, 15, 17, 19	A.J.C. Spring meeting
Sep. 24, 26	Hawkesbury R.C. Spring meeting
Oct. 17	Caulfield Cup
Oct. 31	V.R.C. Derby
Nov. 8	Melbourne Cup

NOMINATIONS CLOSE.

July 10	Wellington Hunt Club
July 25	Christchurch Hunt Club
July 25	N.Z. Grand National General entries
Oct. 12	General entries V.R.C. Spring meeting

WEIGHTS APPEAR.

July 13	N.Z. Grand National Hurdles and Steeplechase
Aug. 1	N.Z. Grand National Minor events
Aug. 5	Christchurch Hunt Club

ACCEPTANCES DUE.

July 3	Wellington R.C.
July 15	Wellington Hunt Club
July 25	N.Z. Grand National Hurdles and Steeplechase
Aug. 8	1st forfeit Melbourne Cup
Aug. 8	N.Z. Grand National Final payments
Aug. 14	Christchurch Hunt Club
Aug. 25	2nd payment Caulfield Cup
Oct. 13	Final payment Caulfield Cup
Oct. 27	2nd forfeit Melbourne Cup

HUNTING.

June 27	Panmure Bridge, noon
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HARRY H. HAYR,
PUBLISHER.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- 1—"Copy" (the technical name of MSS. sent to the press) must be written on only one side of the paper.
- 2—Write on sheets of paper which are neither small enough to be scrappy, nor large enough to be cumbersome on the printer's case.
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The Secretaries of Racing, Rowing, Cricket, Football, Tennis, Polo, Yachting, Bicycle, Dramatic—in short of any and every kind of Athletic, Sporting, and Dramatic Clubs are cordially invited to send us any information that may be of interest to the public and of use in furthering their interests.

The Editor will at all times be willing to do his best to answer any questions or decide any disputes on matters of sporting or general interest.

In every case correspondents must enclose their correct names and addresses (but not for publication), as no notice whatever can be taken of anonymous communications.

To oblige Sporting friends at a distance, the result of important races will be wired immediately after they are run on receipt of a letter containing instructions, and 2s. in stamps.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NEW CHUM (Cambridge).—1. Ellerslie, right-handed; Takapuna, left-handed; Avondale, left-handed; Potter's Paddock, right-handed; Otahuhu, left-handed.
2. Takapuna November 20th, January 29th, and May 24th. The other Clubs no fixed dates. 3. Ellerslie is the only course with the conveniences you mention.
4. If you write to the proprietor of this paper he will always be able to obtain a jockey for you.
J.R. (New Plymouth).—Takapuna was sold to go to Australia, his former owner retaining an interest in his first win.

Sporting Review.

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1891.

The Government have announced that they intend to bring in an Act this session to tax the totalisator at the rate of two and a-half per cent. on the gross receipts. By so doing they calculate on increasing the revenue between £10,000 and £15,000. This has naturally caused great consternation among the committees of the different racing clubs throughout the Colony, as at this time of the year they are

drafting their programmes for the coming season. If the Act is brought into force it means the abolition of a number of small race meetings, and with others a serious reduction of added money, as the proposed tax will absorb the greater part—if not all—of the profits. The majority of racing clubs are seriously in debt at the present time, and the result can be easily foreseen. The object, no doubt, is to put down proprietary clubs and trotting races. It will not affect the latter to any great degree. They could do without the machine, as they rely mainly on their numerous entries and acceptances.

There is another way to view the imposition of this tax, as, if it becomes law, it virtually means doing away with the totalisator. Whether this would be a benefit to racing or not is a question that cannot easily be decided. If breeders and racehorse owners were asked to decide whether the machine should be continued or not we think that the majority would vote for its abolition, for this reason—everyone cognizant with racing must be well aware that stakes alone never pay for the expenses of training, etc., and that an owner must back his horse at times to win a good stake. This cannot be done on the totalisator, never mind how clever you are, as there are numbers of "punters" at every meeting, that know little of racing or of the horses engaged; they simply watch the machine, and if certain horses are backed they follow suit—thus reducing the dividends. It is therefore impossible to win a decent stake never mind how good a thing you may have, as the machine has driven the principal book-makers away to Australia, where they can ply their vocation at a profit. Horse owners, if they are lucky enough to own a good horse, are compelled to send him to Australia, in order to recoup their outlay. Thus the best horses are sent out of the Colony, and the chances are they never return. There is another thing which appears to have passed unnoticed by many. It will greatly affect the breeders who have a large amount of capital invested in blood stock, as if buyers cannot see their way clear to make their purchases pay, they will not give so much money for yearlings. Thus breeders suffer, as there are not many that race only for the honor and glory of the thing.

There is not the slightest doubt in the minds of anyone but that the Government are hard pushed to make the two ends meet, but why should they single out racing to be the victim of a new tax. It is the national pastime, and is enjoyed by thousands. It gives employment to hundreds, also causing large sums to be put into circulation throughout the Colony. Even the farmers benefit by it as they get a better price for their hay and corn.

It is wonderful the Government is so short sighted not to see that thousands are sent out of the Colony which might be retained here, also made a source of revenue. It can easily be done by legalising sweeps, consultations, etc., by licensing the promoters and taxing the gross amount. It could easily be done by making it compulsory to have all the tickets stamped. It is calculated that more than a thousand pounds annually leaves Auckland alone to be invested on the Melbourne Cup. Then, with a small tax imposed on the totalisator, the Government would realise the £10,000 or £15,000 they calculate upon without doing any injury to horse racing.

We will now proceed to point out how seriously this tax will affect the Auckland Racing Club and Dunedin Jockey Club. They are both in the same category, having expended large sums on making and improving their courses; naturally they had to borrow money, so the consequence is they are in debt. We will take the A.R.C. as an example. They put through the totalisator during the four meetings last season the total of £50,568; the Club's share at 10 per cent. comes to £5056 16s. Of this sum if the proposed tax becomes law, the Government will claim £1264 4s. This will swallow up the greater part, if not the whole, of the profits of the four meetings, leaving them little or nothing to reduce their debt, carry on improvements or increase the added money. Dunedin, we believe, is in the same position.

Let us now take the Takapuna Jockey Club—the second in importance in this Province. They have taken great pains to make their course the best suburban one around Auckland.

It has cost a great deal, and requires more laid out on it before it is perfect. They put through the machines at their three meetings £18,520; their gross share being £1852, of which the Government would claim £463. It must be borne in mind that out of the ten per cent. which the Club are allowed to charge, there are expenses, etc., to be paid, so unless very large sums are put through the profit will be very small. Taking the smaller clubs such as Avondale, Onehunga, etc., who only put a few hundreds through the machine, it simply means putting a stop to them altogether or reducing them to the level of hack racing.

From what we can learn there does not appear to be much chance of the bill passing, and we sincerely hope it will not in its present form. If it does, it would be much better to do away with the totalisator altogether, as it would not benefit the racing clubs to any great extent. The Government are doing their best to deteriorate the breed of cattle and dogs by forbidding the importation of fresh blood, unless under almost prohibitive restrictions, and they want to do the same with horses by driving the best animals out of the Colony, as if the breed of horses in New Zealand at the present time was not bad enough.

MR. W. PERCIVAL has been appointed to represent the Auckland Racing Club at the Conference to be held at Wellington on 10th inst, and will leave for Wellington next week. The following new rules are to be submitted by the A.R.C. at the Conference:—

1. When two or more payments for nominations acceptances, etc., have to be made to go to the funds, the first payment shall be the smallest, the second and third *pro rata*.
2. The highest weight to be allotted in a handicap by a handicapper shall not be less than weight-for-age.
3. That when the totalisator is not used it shall not be necessary for programmes to be passed as long as the rules of racing are complied with.
4. A certified copy of race card of all meetings, with first, second, and third horse marked, shall be forwarded after each meeting to the metropolitan club of district.
5. The added money to a race held within ten miles of the metropolitan clubs shall not be less than 40 sovs, nor shall the entry and acceptance fee exceed 3 per cent.
6. The proprietor of or any person interested in the working of the totalisator, shall not be eligible to act as a steward or a committeeman of a race meeting.
7. All pony races shall come under the rules of racing.
8. The surplus in Selling Races over the selling price and stake added shall not go to the club funds other than that accruing from the winner.
9. Jockeys shall wear a thoroughly clean and appropriate dress, and colours of owners and nominators shall also be in good and proper condition.
10. The minimum weight in all handicaps after 1st June shall be nine stone.

PAKURANGA HUNT CLUB.

THE weekly meet of the Pakuranga Hunt Club took place last week at Walters' corner, Papaitoi. The turn out was very numerous, consisting of about 70 well mounted riders, 15 of the fair sex gracing the meet. Amongst the company we noticed the following: Mrs. Bloomfield on Dan, Miss McLaughlin on a bay, Miss Dunnet on Roger, Miss Percival on Prestissimo, Mrs. Bews on a bay, Miss Taylor on Tairoa, Miss Yonge on a grey, Miss Shepherd on Satan, the Misses Buckland (2), Miss Hesketh, the Master, Mr. Percival on Jim, Mr. H. C. Tonks on Nap, Col. Dawson on his bay horse, Col. Shepherd on a bay, Mr. Dunnet, sen., on Bob, Mr. Dunnet, jun. on Hurricane, Mr. T. Craig on Begorrah, Mr. McCord on King Don, Mr. Hanna on a dark bay cob, Mr. McFarlane on a black, Mr. F. Yonge on Fly, Mr. T. McLaughlin on Cardinal, Mr. T. Laxon on a black, Mr. W. Bloomfield on Odd Trick, Master Cyril Yonge on Jerry, Mr. J. Grey on a bay, Mr. A. Bell on a well-bred bay, Mr. Henwood on Muscatelle, Mr. J. Wallace on Relation, Mr. Francis on a roan, Mr. Kelly on Playboy, Mr. Gilmore on Tomato, Mr. Garrett on Guadalquivir, Mr. Shera on Bradlaugh, Mr. Wynyard on a dark bay, Mr. John Rae on The Colonel.

Punctual to time—12 o'clock—the Master gave the word to start, when the Huntsman, Mr. T. Brown on Laddie, accompanied by his son, well mounted on his chestnut pony Sprite, with ten couple of hounds entered Mr. Richard McGee's fallow ground, which was drawn blank. The next move was into Mr. Muir's grass paddock, just across the creek. Here the Huntsman was successful in finding a good strong hare which very soon made things merry, the hounds making the air ring with their music.