

There are nine two-year-olds in the Welcome Stakes, which should prove an interesting race, as there are some really well-bred ones among them. Brown Alice won the Juvenile Plate at the last meeting easily enough, but then she was the only one that had any pretensions to being fit. She is a useful filly, but I do not think that she is a flier. Queen Rose and Dorothy, who finished respectively second and third, are two nice youngsters, but they were very backward, and ought to perform very differently with the extra seven week's preparation. Adelaide is a mere pony, and ran very badly at Napier. Then there is First Nelson and Puwerewere to be reckoned with, as well as Glenora, Pansie and His Worship, all of whom did not perform at the last meeting. Puwerewere should make a smart filly, but I do not think that she will be seen at her best until later on in the season. The winner should come from Brown Alice, Queen Rose, or Puwerewere, though she is backward. At this time of the year you have no line to go by with two-year-olds, so they had best be left alone until you see them at the post.

Seven remain in the Auckland Guineas, some of whom must be going for the chance of second or third money, as if The Workman is at all fit he should have no difficulty in winning.

Twelve out of the original nineteen entries have declared content for the Spring Hurdle Race. Sentinel, 11st 12lb, heads the list, and is not at all badly treated on his best form. Orakei, 10st 10lb, has got more than he is entitled to, but the owner thinks different, and so has The Colonel, 10st 9lb, as he makes a noise and does not like two miles. Dan, 10st 8lb, Mangere, 10st 7lb, and Cynical, 10st, have all a few pounds too much on them. Bit o' Blue, 9st 6lb, has been running very badly lately, and I think wants a little more speed for a race of this description. Try Fluke, 9st 7lb, can gallop a bit and might be dangerous. Fishmonger, 9st 5lb, is leniently treated. I do not fancy Barshot, Karewa or Tawhana. I prefer Sentinel, Orakei, and Fishmonger.

The Short's Race, 6 furlongs, with its curious conditions has attracted six entries.

Now comes the Prince of Wales' Handicap of 200 sovs., 1½ miles, which has the good acceptance of fifteen out of twenty-two entries, which is certainly creditable to Mr. Evitt; though why some of them have accepted I am at a loss to know. Hilda, 9st 10lb, has the post of honour, and I must confess that I am surprised to see her among the acceptors. At the last meeting she was far from fit. She then went to Napier where she ran very badly in both her races, so I fail to see how she can be got ready by the 9th, especially when you take the travelling into consideration. It would not at all surprise me to find that she has this season lost her form; if such is the case it is a pity that she was not relegated to the stud, as mares seldom regain it. Leorina, 8st 8lb, is a game, plodding mare, but there are two or three that will be too fast for her. The Baron, 8st 7lb, has a great turn of speed, and there is no reason why he should not get the mile and a half if his stable want him, but they have two others engaged, so he may be kept for one of the shorter races. Patchwork, 7st 10lb, has nothing to complain of with regard to his weight, but he is an awful rogue. Loch Ness, 7st 10lb, on his last autumn form is very well in. Reprisal, 7st 7lb, will hardly get the distance if it is a fast run race. The Dreamer, 7st 7lb, won the Spring Handicap easily enough, and he only goes up 7lb. He is going well and should take some beating. Pinfire, 7st 4lb, and Dolosa, 7st 4lb, I have no fancy for. The latter is a great jade, but she may some day take it into her head to try and astonish people. Morion, 7st 4lb, is a great fine colt who was rather backward at the last meeting. He is meeting The Dreamer on 4lb worse terms than when he ran second in the Spring Handicap, but he will run better with a stronger boy on his back. Belmont, 7st, has got in well enough for anything. Brigand, 6st 11lb, is a nice little colt, but he is held safe by two or three of the others. Mr. Thompson has accepted with both Warrior, 6st 10lb, and Resentment, 6st 9lb. The former should run well with his light impost. Bulrush, 6st 7lb, concludes the handicap but I think he will find himself outclassed. After carefully going through the list the winner in my opinion should come from the selected one of the Papakura stable, Morion or The Dreamer, though if the Warrior

does not start in the President's Handicap, he is worth an outside shot.

There are six in the Selling Steeplechase—a kind of race that is dangerous to touch here. Either Relation or Pawa should do it if all is right.

The Flying Handicap has no less than sixteen entries, and as the acceptance like the President's Handicap is declared too late for me I can only say that I prefer the chances of The Baron, Roie, and Master Pat.

The second day's racing is greatly dependant on the previous day's running, and as the handicaps will only be published the previous evening I shall have no chance to remark on them. They will be framed by Mr. Knight instead of Mr. Evitt, who will be at Christchurch, so they will be watched for with interest.

C.J.C SPRING MEETING.

THE C.J.C. Metropolitan Meeting takes place on the 9th, 11th, and 14th inst. The principal race, in which great interest is taken, is the New Zealand Cup. The weeding out has been great, only twelve remaining in, of these the chances are they will be still further reduced before the day, so there is not much likelihood of the field exceeding eight or nine. Crack-shot, 9st 3lb, is, on his last year's form, awarded top weight. His chance is favoured by some persons, but I do not like him. He is not only a speedy cutter, but he is none of the soundest, though he is doing well now he is not up to the mark, and he would require to be in his best form to have a chance with this weight. Dan O'Brien has accepted with both Freedom (8st 12lb) and Flinders (6st 11lb). The former ran remarkably well last autumn, and has thickened out during the winter. There is an idea that he prefers a circular course, and that he will not like the long striding one at Riccarton. The latter has grown into a fine colt. They will both strip very fit on the day. Their owner knows more than most people as regards racing, and as he has elected to remain at home instead of taking a trip to Australia as he at one time contemplated, he must think a good deal of his chance, so his selected one will go very near winning. Mr. Hunter, of Hawke's Bay, has also two left in. Cynisca (8st 3lb), on her running in Wellington and Wanganui ought to be in the forward division, especially as from all accounts she is doing well. His other string, Whisper (7st 5lb), is leniently treated. There is an impression that she cannot stay, for what reason I do not know, as from appearance she should do so. Blizzard (7st 9lb) is sure to get the distance, and with this weight he must be regarded as having a great chance. Cruchfield (7st 6lb) has come on well lately, but he has been shelved for sometime, and is none of the soundest, though his chance is fancied by his party. Rosefeldt (6st 13lb) I will pass, as her late running, and she has had a good deal of it, does not point to her being returned the winner. Cajolery (6st 13lb) is a fine colt with a good turn of speed, but he is not bred like a stayer. Last year he had a temper which lost him several races, but at Timaru, when he won the Guineas, he showed none of it, nor does he now when in work. British Lion (6st 11lb) is a turned-loose old horse. He has won two or three good races this season, especially the Napier Spring Handicap, but then he was more forward than most of the others, but this time he will have different company to meet, though he may run into a place, I doubt his winning. The only line for Thane (6st 2lb) is her win at the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club Meeting in the October Handicap, but that does not help one much. Dilemma (6st 2lb) may be passed over. The winner should come from one of the following:—Dan O'Brien's selected one, which will, I think, be Freedom, Blizzard, or Mr. Hunter's chosen one—Cynisca in all probability.

THE C.J.C. Derby has seven left in, either Dan O'Brien's Florrie or Flinders should supply the winner, with Libel and Cajolery to fill the places. From all accounts Florrie is a pretty smart one, and she should also win the Oaks unless Thane is better than any one has reason to suppose.

THE Canterbury Cup has only eight entries. This race is greatly dependant on the running in the Cup, but on paper it looks a good thing

for the Lonsdale Lodge stable unless Lebel is better than I think he is. There are ten youngsters in the Welcome Stakes. Wakawatea has shown that he can gallop, but from what I can learn he will find a dangerous competitor in Dan O'Brien selected.



George Wright has got a good hack up from the Coast.

The pony Cupid, who ran second to Sepoy at Pakuranga races, was sold privately on Friday last.

The Whangarei Racing Club have appointed Messrs. A. M. Rust and E. D. Halstead handicappers. There would be some difficulty in getting two more capable men.

The Onslow Trotting Club received very fair entries at this office on Friday for their inaugural meeting. They will be found in another column.

Prospector was brought up from the Thames on Tuesday last. He is a fine cut of a horse, something like Cloth of Gold, but more compact, with better loins and quarters.

The result of the Melbourne Stakes and Derby were posted up on the totalisator at Potter's on Saturday immediately after the result was made known in Auckland, the news having been telephoned out to Mr. Frank Lawry, M.H.R.

Mr. Douglas' mare Waitiri, that ran second to Nelson on two occasions for the Auckland Cup, has produced a fine colt foal to that horse. A peculiar coincidence, it will be remembered, was that Victoria was third on each of those occasions.

Now that the management of the tramways has changed hands, we would suggest that the two paddocks at Epsom be thrown into one and a good track formed that would be suitable for trotting in harness. This could be done at small cost, and we should then have trotting events well worth seeing, and probably do away with the pony difficulty.

Sunol, the trotting mare who has just broken the world's record, was bred by Governor Stanford, at his Palo Alto farm, San Francisco, was foaled on the 14th April, 1886. She was got by Electioneer out of Wexana, stands 15 hands high, and is of a bay colour. She is a very peculiarly-shaped animal, very high and large in the hind quarters. Her trainer, the great Marvin, predicted years ago that she would prove a perfect trotting machine. The result has borne out this prophecy.

The following prices were realised by Messrs. Digby Tonks & Co., at their auction mart, on Friday, for the privileges for the A.R.C. Second Spring Meeting, which takes place at Ellerslie on the 9th and 10th inst.:—Grandstand bar, S.C. Caulton, Central Hotel, £39; lean-to bar, A. Dunne, Market Hotel, £45; No. 1 booth, P. Quinlan, Edinburgh Castle Hotel, £25; No. 2 booth, J. A. Allan, Waverley Hotel, £12; stabling, Parker, £3; sole right to refreshment stalls, Mrs. MacIntosh, £12; cards, Mr. Blomfield, £32. The privileges of the Agricultural Association were next submitted, when the sole right to the booths was knocked down to J. Hawkins, Queen's Hotel, at £34, and the refreshment stalls to Mrs. MacIntosh at £7. The Demonstration Sports privileges, to be held in the Metropolitan Ground, were then offered, but there was no bid for either of the three booths or cards.

Adam Byers got an awkward shock at the Otahuhu Trotting Club races on Saturday. He had been speculating on the inside machine, and had given someone a ten-pound note for a one, and, as is usual in such cases, he was certain he gave it to the totalisator clerk, who was equally certain that he did not. Byers naturally was very excited over the matter, but had to take the inevitable and look elsewhere for his "tenner." He tried a boy to whom he had given a note, asking the boy to show him the pound he gave him, which was at once done, and it proved to be the ten-pound note, the boy being unconscious of its possession. Much to Byers' credit, he immediately returned to the totalisator clerk and explained matters, making a full apology at the same time.