

OUR FIRST RACE MEETING.

Held in 1833.

In view of the State's centenary, particulars of the first race meeting held in Western Australia will be of interest.

The "Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal" of September 21, 1833, referring to Fremantle pony races gives the following preliminary advertisement:—
"Two subscription purses will be run for on Wednesday, the second day of October, 1833, on the downs near Fremantle, by ponies of all ages, carrying featherweights. Persons desirous of entering their ponies, will please apply to Mr. C. Smith, Fremantle, on or before 12 o'clock on Monday, the 23rd instant, when subscriptions will also be received."

The same paper of October 5, 1833, gives the following account of the meeting:—

This not inaptly termed October meeting took place on Wednesday last the 2nd instant, on the downs near Fremantle and presented both a novel and interesting spectacle. As the origin of racing in this colony will probably be interesting to future chronologists, we feel it our duty to record that the sporting world are indebted to Captain Taylor of the Helen, who has lately imported a number of Timor ponies, aided by Mr. C. Smith and Mr. I.

Weadell, for the institution of an amusement calculated to excite a considerable emulation amongst the breeders and importers of horses. It may be expected from the general interest which was evinced in the sports on Wednesday that before long, some steps will be taken to form periodical meetings. The spot selected for the race-course (the old Fremantle course at Woodman's Point) has long been fixed upon as an appropriate site—it is about a mile and a half from Fremantle on a slightly undulating plain skirting the sea, the adjoining hills affording a fine view of the course. Booths were erected on the brow of the hill with their variegated flags, while the ginger-bread nut stall and the lame fiddler contributed much to the animation of the scene. The groups of fashionably dressed ladies and of gentlemen promenading to and fro, the busy dip of preparation, the cry of "clear the course," and at length the ponies were placed side by side at the starting post, jockeys all appropriately dressed. We can assure our readers who were not fortunate enough to witness it that the scene presented no contemptible display.

First Race, Pony Race.—A subscription purse of five sovs. Heats, once round a

half mile course: Captain McDermott's Dandy, Captain Taylor's Doctor, Captain Taylor's Teazer, Mr. Samson's More in Sorrow Than in Anger, Mr. Leeder's Bob, Mr. Solomon's Tinker, Mr. Dowling's Jacko Mackako.

The first heat was well contested between Dandy and Tinker until within a few yards of the winning post when Tinker's rider (Master Butler), whether with the intention of jockeying or from accident, we were not present to determine, cleverly sidled his antagonist off the course. In the second heat, Dandy's rider retaliated, and Tinker bolted at starting. Dandy came in without any competition. The third heat was again well contested between Tinker and Dandy. The latter, however, won.

Second Race.—Mr. George Leake's Jack against Mr. Samson's black mare. The former won.

Third Race.—Captain Erskine's Perouse, Mr. S. G. Henty's Jack and Mr. Daniel Scott's Grey. This was a good run between Jack and Grey. The latter won. Perouse bolted.

Fourth Race.—Mr. Henty's Jack, Mr. Scott's Grey, Mr. Smith's horse, Jack won.

Pony Race.—A subscription purse of £3. Five ponies were entered but most of them preferred the branch road soon after starting. The run was more amusing than edifying.

Climbing a greased pole for a hat, wheeling a barrow blindfolded to a given mark, and a running match between Mr. I. Morrell, junr. and Mr. Davey, which took place previously to the horses and ponies arriving on the course, comprised the other entertainments of the day.

Owing to the protracted sittings of the Quarter Sessions the races did not commence until about half-past 2 o'clock.

Some evil genius seems invariably to watch over these meetings. The arrangements for the amusement of all parties would not be complete without a row. Consequently a row we had, but we should not have expected a gentleman of Mr. Lamb's respectability to have been the originator.

The Yorkshire Club dined together at the Union Hotel, the sports of the day were discussed and but one general opinion of Saturday's function prevailed.

The Ledger was not run before the magistrates on the following morning.