

BETTING AGAIN ON CESAREWITCH.

GOLDEN MELODY PRESSED FOR FAVOURITISM.

LEICESTER PROSPECTS.

It was a sign of the normal again when the old familiar types returned to "hold the walls up" at street corners. Not that any racing was on, but they felt that perhaps a few of the unwary might be found who would listen to whisperings about the Cesarewitch. This has, so far, been quite a good Cesarewitch for the whispers.

They had the mystery Almanac all ready as their trump card, and a three-card muddle without form; this season is the ideal for the self-constituted clever division to juggle with. Any horse with real public credentials is generally the last in the world to satisfy the speculators. Obvious indications converge in the expectation of mystery or weird and wonderful home trials.

Ever since Almanac was galloped with Wilson some time back the talk has grown as to the number of steeds he could give Sir Alby Basset, and the odds-on chance of the Cesarewitch chances have been rather more quiet of late, many coming round to my first opinion that if he wins a big Newmarket handicap at all it will be the Cambridge. Since he has not run since his last appearance of that, nor does he always please in his gallops, for he has two ways of going—Reggie Day wanted to get a race into the big colt, but opportunity was denied last week.

STILL "WHISPERING."

With Almanac shelled for the time being, the whisperers have, however, not been quieted. They found another Newmarket horse who was racing in Eton Bambler, and, at least, they are armed with the information that the son of Stedfast and Cyclamen has been tiring out some of Jack's Leader's "uns" in two-mile gallops. Yet the bookies seem to be encouraged in their round of Gallop's mount to beat a nice colt like Gay Lord at 50s., and I have reported before that, win or lose, the Jockey Club handicap has taken a bit of sport with Wilson, and that the Gold Cup is still a live possibility. Wilson will probably ride Gay Lord, for he has two ways of going—Reggie Day wanted to get a race into the big colt, but opportunity was denied last week.

Perhaps the man is to be envied who, unburdened with a string of colts, enjoyed a quiet morning in his study on October 1st, and decided to have a few pounds each way on the two form horses of the race. If he is any student of the book he cannot leave out Golden Melody and King John. They simply thrill themselves before you on the Jockey Club's track, and Wilson has had his fill. Wilson contemplated a Duke of York Stakes coup with King John, and my conviction is strengthened by the fact that, when the master of Clarehaven went out for the Cesarewitch in the old days, the Duke produced a string of colts, and asked whether the mission to Prince Philip really altered his intentions, but it is most likely that King John revealed more natural stamper than he was credited with.

Wilson has had a quarter of a mile on the collar, but I shall not oppose him, for he has excelled in long work late, and he fairly slaughtered White Heat in a spin. He rolled about in the fashion that produced disqualification for the Town Meeting horse, and my opinion is that the first decent stamina gallop he had been given. King John is putting Iffley Bay in the Cesarewitch with 6s. 10ds., and she is not streets behind. Wilson is a jockey who is expert, and March Along were permanent members of his string. Both have been gallantly dallying with the Kingsclere horses, as they could not get back from Newbury.

RIGHT WING NEEDED.

WHY WEST HAM KEEP ON LOSING MATCHES.

Queen's Park Rangers 2, West Ham U. 1. In qualifying for the semi-final of the London Challenge Cup by defeating West Ham United at Loftus-road yesterday, Queen's Park Rangers demonstrated what may have always contended—that Southern League football is of a standard which challenges comparison with that of the Second League.

Both teams were practically up to their best strength, and the Rangers were better collective and individual play in all departments. The West Ham forward line, which continues to be unsatisfactory owing to the apparent inability of the managers to find a team fit to play, was similarly up to this game, largely owing to the complete overshadowing of Puddleton by Mitchell who "generalized" the "Rangers" defence with judicious judgment, and proved what a great service to the whole side—a centre-half of outstanding experience and a captain of being.

The visitors' solitary success came from the usual usual. A deft touch by Hatcher sent the ball across the goal line, but when it was negatively executed, and ended in an splendid goal. Bradshaw is a deadly little winger when he can show the opposition a clean pair of heels.

THEIR BUSY DAY.

The Rangers had opened the scoring through Gregory, who was the most persistent and accurate marksman of the day. Hatcher and Cox, Donald and Bush, were also forward in their efforts, and cones in their progressive movements and managed to give the West Ham defenders a busy time, in spite of a generous exploitation of the one-back game by Cope and his team.

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