

Reports from the South state that Wimmera is perfectly sound again.

The Leominster gelding Hard Rock has arrived at Ellerslie, and has gone into the hands of Absolom's charge.

The gelding Othura was schooled over five hurdles at Ellerslie last week, jumping in good style.

According to a Southern writer, Leolanter had run second on fourteen occasions previous to winning at Hastings last week.

W. Sharpe leaves for Gisborne on Saturday with Krenidia and Miss Abu, which claim engagements at the Gisborne meeting next week.

A meeting of the Avondale Jockey Club committee was held last week, when the dates for the Spring Meeting were fixed for September 20 and 23.

During the progress of the Hawke's Bay meeting a meeting of the rising two-year-olds in the district were spurred down the straight, one or two being well forward.

In addition to being nominated for the Grand National Steeplechase, Le Beau has been nominated for the Lincoln Steeplechase at the C.J.C. National Meeting.

After a short spell, Sir Walter and Polsters are to be put into work again, and next Monday will see them on the tracks at Ellerslie.

It has now been definitely decided that Delegate will not be taken South. The son of Phœbus Apollo was started working in anticipation of the Southern trip, but now that it is off he has been eased up.

The Auckland-owned gelding Honza appears in the list of the three steeplechasers at the C.J.C. National Meeting, and also in the list of the three steeplechasers to appear in the National Hurdle Race.

The grey horse Midura is fast being put down at Ellerslie under F. Tonge's guidance. One morning last week he ran for six furlongs on the company with Miss Aua, there being nothing between the pair at the finish.

The South mare Soutoria, which has been gelding at her owner's place, Pukekohe, for the last couple of months, is now doing active work again in about a fortnight. Soutoria is stated to have built up considerably during her rest.

The Monoform gelding Apelon, which was recently put into work after being operated on, is carrying a nice healthy appearance, and it will be interesting to see how he regains the form which characterised his efforts as a two-year-old.

The Egmont Racing Club has decided to appeal against the decision of the Taranaki Jockey Club, with reference to the jockey Harlow, who was fined for one year at the Egmont winter meeting for alleged pulling.

The well-known stallion Stepnak, by Nordensfeldt—Storpe, died in the South recently. Stepnak, which was owned by Mr. J. F. Reid, of the Ellerslie Stud, was for a couple of seasons stationed at Cambria Park, being shipped South again in January last. On the first Stepnak was a great performer, and during his career at the stud sired a number of brilliant horses, amongst the number being Menechukoff and All Red, two of the finest performers seen in the New Zealand turf. Stepnak was foaled as far back as 1892, and at the time of his death was rising 22 years.

At the annual meeting of the South Canterbury Jockey Club the report stated that there was a £10 debit on the November meeting of £200 on the March meeting. The Government tax was the principal factor, £403 being paid. Representatives of the Trotting Club attended to suggest the inclusion of trotting races in the programme, as the commission's report practically wiped out the club. They also asked for a balance of £150, from which stakes might be subsidised. The suggestion was referred to the new committee.

The annual report of the Riccarton Trainers' Association was submitted to members last week, and most interesting reading it makes. During the past twelve months the association, through its committee, has done a great deal of work, of benefit to local and visiting trainers, and its recommendations have invariably met with courteous consideration at the hands of the Canterbury Club. There is no doubt that a properly conducted Trainers' Association is in a position to offer valuable suggestions with regard to many questions concerning racecourses, training tracks, and the welfare of the horse, and there appears to be every promise of the relations between the Riccarton body and the C.J.C. continuing to be mutually beneficial. In the course of his address, the chairman (G. Murray Ayley) took occasion to make reference to the recent gaming legislation in the following terms: "The agitation against the totalisator should not be received by members of the association with undue indifference. It behoves every member to be on the alert to meet the attacks of parasites and extremists, and to so conduct himself as to carry out his ordinary work with a circumspection that will not draw attention as far as trainers are concerned. To sink back into indifference directly immediate danger is removed is the height of folly, and members are urged to consider ways and means of organization that will be a safeguard to the future, and to endeavour to gain the active support of all fair-minded and temperate men."

The rising two-year-old Prince Soult is very forward, and already comports himself as if he had been in work for years. On his own appearance he was sent out racing to upset the son of Soult—Lady Healer.

One of the biggest and best-grown youngsters at Ellerslie is the half-bred—Waltersilly, which is being handled by M. Ryan. The filly is a splendidly-developed young lady, and would even now pass for a rising three-year-old.

W. Moberley has taken Aristo in hand again since a few months' rest. The son of Explosion looks bright and well, and the bad foot which brought about his retirement is now quite well again. The same trainer has also the rising three-year-old Cloudy Dawn doing useful exercise.

It transpires that if Gray only had one winning ride at the Hawke's Bay Winter Meeting, which makes him level with Whitaker for the Jockey Premiership. It was his only one in the Dominion. Gray that rode Bliss in her engagements at Hastings, one of which she won.

Master Theory is being kept at schooling work at Ellerslie, and on Saturday morning was sent to the paddock over the pony hurdles. He slipped into one and fell over, afterwards displaying a will of his own. Master Theory looks like giving some trouble before he is proficient at the game, but his trainer is very persevering and is sure to mould him into shape.

A week or two ago it was pointed out in these columns that considerable danger existed at Ellerslie, through there being only one entrance to the boxes, during training operations. The committee have given the question consideration, and it has now been decided to make another gate at the end, alongside the casualty room, for the horses to enter after working. This will be a much-needed improvement, and will be greatly appreciated by trainers.

The report of the Racing Commission has, as generally expected, brought forth a host of proposals, practically every part of the Dominion except Hawke's Bay affected. There is no doubt that many clubs have been harshly treated, and probably the Government are now sorry the clause reducing the number of days' racing was inserted. There are one or two metropolitan clubs that have escaped scot free that would not have suffered greatly if a day or two had been lopped off, while some country clubs have been allowed to hold a two-days' meeting, and others to hold a three-day meeting. The position created is going to raise a lot of trouble, and it will be interesting to watch developments.

The reduction of race days is going to cause a lot of trouble amongst clubs, unless the Racing Conference see fit to alter the rules governing the amount required to be given in stakes. At present the rule reads that the net amount received the previous year from the totalisator must be given in stakes, so that, taking the Takapuna Jockey Club as an example, they would have to distribute in four days the amount given away last year in seven. If this is done, and the Government will do this, the Government tax on top of it, I predict that a commission will soon have to be appointed to find a country racing club.

Our (Mr. J. New) correspondent writes that the Metropolitan Club has been asked by leading sportsmen of the city to convene a public meeting to protest against the Racing Commission's recommendation in regard to the blotting out of the Waikato Jockey Club. It is generally admitted that a grave indignity would be inflicted if the Commission's recommendation was given effect to. A leading racing man maintains that the main business of the Commission was to reduce the number of racing days already in existence, and not to rob already existing clubs for the purpose of creating race meetings in places where neither racecourses, grandstands, nor anything else exist. The granting of permits to such places as Turanga, Te Aroha, and Paeroa, and depriving an important centre like Waikato (where there are so many men and few opportunities for recreation) seems to constitute the antithesis of equity and impartial treatment.

The decision in the case of A. Julian by the appeal judges of the N.Z. Racing Conference is another instance of something being required to put the question-of-fact into a proper understanding. One good point in the finding is that the stewards are directed to make a specific charge against the rider, and notify him of the same, and the time and place when the charge will be given a hearing, and he may only be held out boasted ideals of British fair play that an accused person should hear all the evidence adduced against him, and be given a chance to defend himself and call evidence on his own behalf. It is not clear whether as to whether Julian is guilty or not, for opinions I have gathered on the matter vary considerably, but it is certainly the right thing that every racing man should be given a hearing and a right of defence. This has been laid down by the judges of the Conference. It is to be hoped that the stewards of the clubs throughout the Dominion will follow that ruling.

Whilst at Hastings last week (says the Wellington writer Sir Belliver) I endeavoured to find out something about Yasnak's history. Nobody—not even her owner—appeared to know a word of her early life, and it was only by appearing, bred in Auckland, being got by Klatter's sire, Castor, sired from a mare called Sultan, or from a daughter of Sultan. Anyway, her dam is believed to have been a half-bred, and her sire was a New Zealand-bred young mare Yasnak made the property of Mr. Sidney Williamson, one-time owner of New Year, and took part without success in eight or ten sprint events in Poverty

Bay, where as a six-year-old she made her debut in 1902. During the three seasons she raced on the flat, a second in a Maiden Stakes, and a third in a Maiden Stakes for her keep, and she was then thrown out of work. Mr. Williamson subsequently made a present of her to Mrs. Jamieson, in whose colors she was successful last winter, and was named by her owner, used to be spelt "Yasnak," is now rising fifteen years, and is probably the oldest of her sex that has ever won a cross-country event in Australasia. According to the "Herald," the Hawke's Bay Steeplechase is the first and only race she has won, but as a matter of fact she scored in the Hunters' Final Steeplechase at the Hawke's Bay Hunt Club's meeting, held at Hastings last July.

WELLINGTON PROVINCIAL NOTES.

The Opaki trainer, R. Knox, has leased the St. Clements—Goreau gelding club. The Racing Commission's recommendation is being received with mixed feelings by the clubs. The clubs of the Valley, Pahiatua and Ashhurst-Pahiatua clubs are up in arms at their meetings being cut out altogether. It must be admitted, however, as far as the former club is concerned, that the Racing Commission's such close proximity to the Wairarapa Racing Club's course is not a necessity. The Marlborough meeting has always been a poor success, and has only met with objection to its extinction. Pahiatua, on the other hand, has good cause to complain. This meeting has always been well conducted, and was of the "Farmers' holiday" class of gathering. It would have been much fairer to have curtailed Woodville a day, and allotted it to Pahiatua. Most regret seems to be expressed at the "messing-up" of the Ashhurst-Pahiatua Club's future. It was an old-fashioned, enjoyable gathering, and the stakes (£115) were the largest given by any one-day club in New Zealand. The Commission's recommendation of the cutting of these close proximity to Woodville and Awapuni. The suggested amalgamation of the Masterton and Tararua-Carterton clubs was anticipated by many, though it is not likely to be given effect to, as both clubs are apparently "dead again" it. It is anticipated that some very interesting questions will be asked in the House, when it meets, regarding the racing situation, as far as they apply to the Wellington province.

The Masterton horse St. Brandon has broken down, and his racing days are probably at an end, on account of the severe winter, which he had leased the Bonnie Scotland—Rose Fisher gelding.

The Clarendon horse Hibernia scored a long ovation at the Ladies' Club, and the San Fran—Lillian representative, now that he has struck form, should account for a fair share of stake money in future engagements.

The Wairarapa steeplechaser Sunray injured a shoulder at the Hastings meeting. He was engaged in the Havelock Hack Steeplechase, and in a false start Flynn, rider of Sunray, pulled him up short, with the result that the animal sustained a ricked shoulder, and he was taken back to the saddling paddock without participating in the race. The stewards held an inquiry into the matter, but considered the evidence of the starter, jockey and trainer satisfactory, and took no action.

Lady Kitcheran and her stable companion Mervyn are to be spelled for the remainder of the season.

Itaui has been tamed out and will not race again till the spring.

Gold Bird, who is engaged in the hurdle race at the W.R.C. meeting, is putting up good work at the Hutt under Pritchard's care. Another Treatham candidate, Merry Frank, is also showing nicely.

F. Higgett has the latter.

Wairarapa sporting men who have attended meetings of the Takapuna Jockey Club express surprise at the Racing Commission's having cut out the racing in the club. They consider it one of the best conducted meetings in the Dominion, the course is an admirable one, the sport was always clean, and the gathering most of the clubs, in the nature of a huge bazaar.

The Palmerston horse, Rangikuru, who has been spelled lately, is to be given a trial at the Hutt.

The Manawatu Trotting Club will hold a meeting on the Ashurst course in July. The club has a permit to hold the gathering, but no totalisator license.

TURF TALK FROM THE SOUTH.

CHRISTCHURCH, Friday. The condition of the training tracks at Riccarton this week has prevented much work being done on the flat, though trainers are taking full advantage of the good going which is available for schooling purposes. In view of the fact that eight or nine local candidates claim engagements at the Wellington meeting, and our own big winter future, trainers are anxiously getting their horses into the ring, and doing little more than trotting and cantering just now, and it is time they were getting through more solid tasks. My Lawyer and Optimism, which will be the Otago representative at the Wellington meeting, are running in getting through their work in satisfactory style, and the same is said of Prosperity; but, unless the old son of Gold Reef has undergone a rejuvenation, he can hardly be worth sending as far away from home. The report of the Racing Commission is still the topic of the moment in sporting circles, and the more it is discussed the more numerous are the objections to it. A number of clubs are expressing dissatisfaction with the recommendations, and some of them are likely to add to the difficulties which are threatening the Minister of Internal Affairs.

Mason and Franks left for Sydney last evening with their large string of horses. They are making the trip in good time, and it seems probable that most of their mounts will have their early promise they should hold their own with the champions on the other side.

A Southern Journal states that Mr. McBride has sold his horses to Mr. M. H. Hassell, a Sydney gentleman, for the sum of £700. Othuro will be transported to Australia shortly. The son of Thru has won a great deal of money for others as well as his own during the last two seasons. He should do well in weight for age racing in Australia, if, as seems likely, he can train to run on a mile; but in any event he is such a fine weight carrier that he would take a run of stopping in some of the big handicaps.

NAPIER PARK RACES.

NAPIER, Thursday. The Winter Meeting of the Napier Park Racing Club was concluded today, when the weather was a decided improvement on that of the previous day, although it was still cold and threatening. The sum of £2875 was put through the totalisator, against £2000 on the second day of last year, making £10,600 for the meeting, or £2608 more than in 1910. The late results are as follows:—

Brooklands Hack Handicap.—Mouton (girl) 9/10, T. Golden Age, 9/1, 2, Loch Muin, 9/10, 3. All started. Won by a length. Time, 1:25 4/5.

Wadhuk Hack Hurdles of 90sovs, one and a-half miles.—Dunlop, 9/6, 1; Tain Toa, 10/4, 2; Polyness, 10/4, 3. Scratched: Espartaco, Captain Bell, and Kiblan. Won by four lengths. Time, 3:5 4/5. Bayou Water (3).

Winter Birds of 15sovs, seven furlongs.—Trochelle, 9/1, 1; Sun Lane, 9/1, 2; Hume, 10/4, 3. Scratched: Mouton. Won by a length and a half. Time, 1:41 3/5.

Park Steeplechase of 17sovs, 2 1/2 miles.—Hounga, 10/1, 1; Luger, 9/7, 2; Ross-grove, 10/4, 3. Scratched: Lull and Xaver. Won by a quarter of a mile. Time, 6:10 1/5.

Saraginx lost his rider, as did Rosgrove and Luger, but the last two were remounted and finished.

Ladies' Braconi, one mile.—Sears Foster, 10/7, 1; Sun Lane, 10/4, 2; Fustica, 10/7 (Mr. A. Bos), 3; Goldcup, 10/8 (Mr. J. Tracey), 3. Also started: Te Whetu, Elys, Termete, Golden Chisp, Mousler, Sun, Oodley Park, Amphora, Water of Mink. Won easily by a length. Time, 1:35 1/5.

Female Hurdle Race, one mile and three-quarters.—Dull, 9/7 (Hans Thompson), 1; Whidgo, 10/4 (C. Price), 2; Tain Toa, 9/6 (C. Cochrane), 3. Also started: A. Bell, T. G. Won by two lengths. Time, 3:35 4/5.

Newstead Hack Handicap, Seven furlongs.—Dunlop, 9/6 (C. Price), 1; Fash, 10/2 (A. Oliver), 2; Mouton, 9/5 (A. Oliver), 3. Also started: composed Turquoise, Fleet Week. Won by six lengths. Time, 1:41 4/5.

"I have lived long enough," says an eminent clergyman, "to learn that the secret of happiness is never to allow one's energies to stagnate."

It's easy talking, but we have to allow some things to happen, whether we will or not. When a man hasn't a morsel to eat and can't get food anywhere, he is obliged to "allow" himself to go hungry. And "energies" come from something—they depend on something. When that something fails, then the energies stagnate, in spite of all the talk in the world.

Mr. G. Balutina, who lives at 3, Mill Street, Ashburton, says: "I was so often out of sorts that I could scarcely keep on my feet, or attend to my business."

In other words, his energies were stagnated—a thing the preacher says ought never to be allowed to happen! Why did it happen? "For years," he says, "I was in a state of chronic ill-health through indigestion. I could neither sleep nor eat well, and suffered greatly from severe pains in the chest and stomach after almost every meal."

"Six months back, my wife, who had been cured of a long-standing illness by Mother Seigel's Syrup, persuaded me to try it. When I had taken a single bottle, I felt a lot better. All the symptoms of indigestion decreased, and I gained strength, health and appetite. After using a few additional bottles of the Syrup, all pain was entirely removed. I could eat heartily and digest my food without difficulty, and was soon feeling as well as I could wish to be."

A people who lack energy, feel tired, languid, feeble, nervous, need one thing to make them strong, bright, vigorous and comfortable again, viz. food. Food will do it, when everything else has failed. After it is digested, it will do it—not before. When your stomach is deranged and cannot digest food, Mother Seigel's Syrup, the herbal tonic, will tone up and help it to do its work. Try it yourself!