

winter, and now that he has a bit more age and is more experienced he may be expected to carry the "all pink" well forward. Tahaka gets over hurdles very cleanly, and is a very nice cut of a jumper.

In the next box was a two-year-old brown colt by Cuirassier out of Dulce. This is a youngster of very powerful build all over, and I shall not be at all surprised if he becomes a credit to the Messrs Duder's Musket stallion. He is long and low, and looks a galloper all over.

A three-year-old bay filly by Foulshot, out of Lucy, and therefore a relation to Perform, occupies the adjoining box. She has never raced yet, and I should say she will be given plenty of time before she is required to carry silk.

Bobs, the Hotchkies—Ouida colt, for whom 250ggs were given at Mr Morrin's last sale, is a very fine looking colt. Ouida has thrown so many good ones that Bobs may be expected to shine upon the Turf. He has grown tremendously, and must stand fully 16 hands. This height makes the colt appear to want substance. He requires time to fill out, and therefore may be expected to make a better three-year-old than a two-year-old performer. Still, should he run at the spring meetings I shall not be surprised at his racing well forward. Bobs will make a race horse in time, for he possesses all the necessary qualities.

Verdi is now in Mr Williamson's care. The Sou'-wester gelding has been such a "frost" since his Maiden Hurdles' victory at Takapuna two seasons ago that it is rather hopeless to expect much from him. Still, he has pace and he can jump, and if the Harp Road trainer can get the best out of him he will yet win races.

A youngster by Lord Dunluce out of Welcome is, owing to being a late foal, on the small side. He is in the rough also, so he does not give much opportunity for gush. Another six months over his head will alter matters considerably.

Another coming jumper in the three-year-old by Catesby out of Alabacla is the next one to be looked over. Rough and tough is the verdict to pass upon him just at the present time. He has any amount of power, and has understandings of the best.

Coronet was the last to be inspected. The six-year-old son of Castor and Necklace looks extremely well, and is, no doubt, very nearly fit for the fray. Remembering his victory in the last Egmont Cup when he carried 9st 8lb, and ran the mile and a-half in 2min 39sec, beating Tortulla 8st 11lb by half a length, I should not put anything before him for the Avondale Cup did I know that he was the same horse. Journeying across from Taranaki to Hawke's Bay he got a knock on the inside of his off hock. The bone bears a peculiar enlargement now, and though it has not interfered with his galloping the injury may have affected the horse's brilliancy. I hope it has not. Coronet is a good looking horse, and he bears the stamp of racer all over. Should he bear Mr Marshall's colours to victory in a big race this season there will be plenty of rejoicing, and no man will be better pleased than J. B. Williamson, who has a firm belief in his charge's ability, and a fondness for a horse who has proved himself a sterling performer.

After having seen all the inmates of the boxes we went and had a look at the yearlings. The chestnut colt by Gossoon out of Windmill has grown into a strapping fellow. He is one of the biggest yearlings I have seen this season. His markings are a blaze and near fore and off hind feet white. The colt has quality, size, substance, and plenty of bone. A bay gelding by Eton out of Athore is a well-grown and shapely chap, and he moves in good style. A brown filly by Cydnus out of Irma is a nice looking young thing, with a very pretty head and capital out-

line. A bay by Eton out of Welcome is a splendid advertisement for the young Castor horse, for in build, size, and looks this is a fine yearling. A filly by Ronda out of Matakinaui completes the collection. The five youngsters are a very likely looking lot, and when the time comes for them to carry Mr Marshall's colours I have no doubt they will do so with credit.

#### MR T. JONES'S TEAM AT HASTINGS.

[BY OUR HAWKE'S BAY CORRESPONDENT.]

Mr Richardson's late private trainer has established himself again at the above locality. He has at present four horses in work, and a native patron of his, who owns a couple of the inmates of the quarters, is sending him down shortly another colt. Jones was hard at it the other morning when I made my call, and he assured me that he was fast losing a lot of avoirdupois, and judging by the way he was bustling round doing up Whitirea, I fully believed his statement. "You do not think that this sort of work will knock me out, do you, old fellow?" he queried, as I eyed his labours with astonishment. "Hard work never killed anybody yet that I know of," was my reply, which seemed to satisfy the genial Tommy, who asked me to look over Whitirea, as a start on the morning's proceedings. Armourer's black-coated son has not been quite himself for some time past, but thanks to the treatment administered to him by his educator, is rapidly getting along on the up grade; again he is a decidedly useful sort with a good constitution, for the more races that he runs, the better he seems to get. An ideal horse for a "battler," no amount of travelling seeming to effect his appetite detrimentally. His half-sister, by Chainlink (Chainshot—Nautilus), Lady's Link, is next door neighbour to him, and when the rug was removed from her, I could not help but notice how well she has furnished since I last saw her, which was at the Queen's Birthday meeting of the Waipawa Club, when she snapped a double. A good game specimen, with a lot of brilliancy, she ought, assuredly, this season, to place several stakes to the credit of her Maori owner, who, by-the-way, is a right good sort, and who pursues the game simply for the amusement it affords. Rhino, the ancient (he is in his thirteenth year), has quite recovered from the ailment that precluded his going on with a preparation just before the steeplechase season. It was indeed bad luck for his connections that he was outed when he was, for had he been delivered at the post fit and well, he would have (seeing what a poor lot the steeplechase winners lately have been), placed some of the rich stakes attached to cross country events, to the credit of this trainer, who is lessee of the chestnut gelding. Should he go on as well as he has been shaping lately, he will, so his educator informs me, be nominated for some of the hurdle events that find a place on the Club's programme in this district during the coming season, and, if he has not lost the old dash, he will take a power of settling when the run to the judge's box takes place. The running member of the string is a five-year-old chestnut gelding by Mousquetaire from Miss Dargon, who is so far an unknown quality. Should breeding be a criterion to go by he ought to gallop all right, for his sire is a three-quarter brother to Trenton, and his dam claims half-sistership to the mighty Nelson. He is in the rough as yet, and of course works at the worst, but he has a good frame, with fine legs and feet, and when he is built up and filled out will, no doubt, look a presentable packet. Located under the same roof as the foregoing lot is Mongonui, the elder half-



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MR J. E. THORPE, THE TRAINER OF RECORD REIGN AND CAVALIERO.

sister to Seahorse by Carbine, who is leased and trained by T. Cameron from the trustees of the late Mr W. Douglas. A long spell that she has enjoyed on the good paddocks of Te Mahanga run has done her a world of good, for she has now blossomed out into a good thick set sort, and is quite unlike the small, ratty looking filly she was last season. A good deal of that fretful style that characterised her previously has been eradicated; she has given ample proof in the past that she can skip away fastly, and, now that she has quietened down, ought to prove remunerative property to control. As of yore, Jones's hospitality is his strong suit, and I was not permitted to say "An Revoir" without doing justice to his table.

#### MESSRS HOOLEY AND SMITH'S TRAINING STABLES AT HASTINGS.

This brace of young partners have got a quartette of horses under their jurisdiction, and, with as good patrons behind them as they have, it only wants a bit of luck with the animals they control for them to further increase their string. Nothing succeeds like success you know, and generally speaking the best trainer is the one who leads in the most winners, that is, from our every-day point of view—not to say that the sportsman who owns the horses prepared by the partnership cannot take reverses, but, all the world over, Mammon likes to be on the winning side, and in the majority of cases, when the sweets of victory have been partaken of, there is more of that delectable commodity required, and consequently more horses are started as aspirants for turf fancy. Ngaio, the three-year-old full-sister to Tortulla, was the initial item of my inspection, and what a handsome filly she is to be sure; not quite so far off the ground as her relative, but with those great staying quarters that mark out the conformation of Tortulla, in colour exactly the same, and in construction a replica for the Porirua trained mare. Her shoulders are well and evenly balanced, and her ribs are set A 1. If any fault can be found with her appearance, it is that her head is awkwardly placed on her lean, wiry neck, but as they do not gallop with their heads, this trifling impediment can be easily passed over. She is a maiden as yet. The adjoining box shelters Bushman, a gigantic son (he is about 17 hands) of Gipsy King and Barbette, and consequently full-brother to Bush Boy and Bush Girl. For a big chap, he is well proportioned, though the shoulders are a bit on the loaded side, but his other good features help to make amends for this flaw. Gipsy King's progeny, as a rule, take readily to jumping, and Bushman is to be given an opportunity to show his mettle at this branch of the industry. He will have the advantage of a good schoolmaster in Torpina, who is one of the members of the lot, and it is a well-known fact that example is better than precept. Bushman will not want for the former, when he is associated with the black gelding in his scholastic duties. Katriona, who was next displayed, is a comely, sturdy three-year old daughter of St Andrew and Krina, bred by Captain Russell. It is a pity that she is on the small side, for she is a particularly taking looking youngster and looks as strong as a bullock. From her head down she is an exact counterpart of her dam, who was a good one when at her best. Her head is very like that possessed by Jabber, of a true St Andrew type. Her understandings are of the very best make and pattern, and look as if they would last for ever. If her dam has endowed her with her pace and determination, and St Andrew has capped this qualification with his brilliancy, Katriona should in public distinguish herself and do credit to her educators. Torpina, at the time of my visit, had not returned from his Southern campaign, so I could not take his measure. Alick Smith, who acted as my entertainer, gave me a patient hearing, which fact helped to pass away a pleasant morning, for which I have to express many thanks.

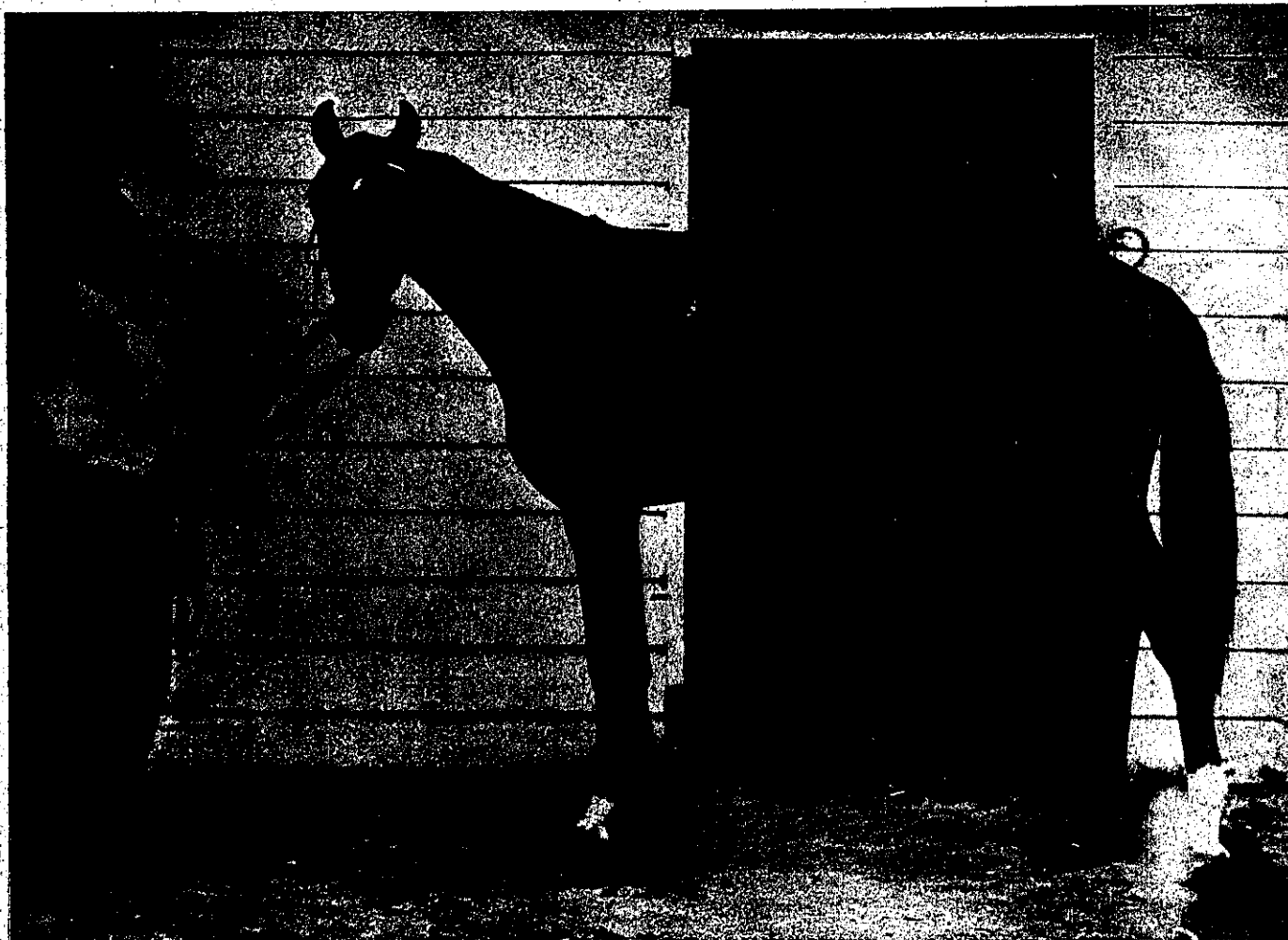


Photo A. L. Cleave, Kilerslie.

MR D. A. McLEOD'S 2 JEWELLERY YRS. (BY ST. Leger—NECKLACE.)