

TOLOGA BAY JOCKEY CLUB.

At the annual meeting of the above Club the following officials were elected for the ensuing year:—Chairman of committee, Mr G. Dixon; president, Mr A. Reeves; vice-presidents, Messrs James Macfarlane and W. A. Hood; judge, Mr G. Spece; treasurer, Mr W. Dobson; starter, Mr E. Roland; handicapper, Mr E. D. Bennett; clerk of scales, Mr J. Morris; clerk of course, Mr J. Cannon; timekeeper, Mr G. Dixon; totalisator steward, Mr W. Dobson; stewards, Messrs J. A. Moore, G. Dixon, W. D. S. Macdonald, W. Lockwood, J. Kennedy, W. Farrell, G. Fitzgerald, G. Cottrell, D. Reid, J. R. Shaw, J. Holmes, and J. H. Martin.

The distance in the hurdle race was reduced to one mile and a-half. The Disposal Stakes was struck out, and a race to be called the Hawiti Handicap instituted in its place. The Final Handicap was struck off the programme, and the Club have again reverted to the Forced Handicap. Owing to the heavy expense last year the Club has only increased the stakes this year £10.

The annual report congratulated members on the steady progress made during the past season. In accordance with the resolution passed at a special general meeting, the racecourse had been leased for seven years, and £180 had been borrowed to erect a grandstand and other improvements. At the request of the Racing Conference the date of the annual meeting had been fixed for March 18. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the president, Mr A. Reeves, for refunding the rent for the course, and other considerations shown by him.

The balance-sheet showed receipts for the year amounting to £4 9, including a balance brought forward of £113. The expenditure stood at £419, while £235 had been paid off the overdraft, leaving a balance in hand of £60 to commence the new season with.

POOL ROOMS IN AMERICA.

The pool room proprietors at Sacramento have won a partial victory, and they can now by paying a license of 500dol. per quarter, run their gambling houses without being amenable to arrest. It is a pity this state of things exist in any city and it will only be one more reason for the crank reformers to get closer together and put more energy into their avowed intention of stopping all sports on which wagers are made. The ordinance which closed the pool rooms at Sacramento a few months ago was not passed in any Puritan spirit (says the *Breeder and Sportsman*). The best element of the city desired to close the pool rooms, but wished to permit the selling of pools or making books on tracks where actual contests were being held. A friend of the gamblers who was on the Board of Trustees offered an amendment to the ordinance in which race tracks were not excepted from the operations of the law and rather than see the pool rooms remain open, this amendment was accepted and the ordinance passed. Lately an attempt was made to amend the ordinance so that pools could be sold and wagers made on the track of the State Agricultural Society; but this was killed and the ordinance licensing pool rooms passed instead. The Mayor vetoed it, but it was carried over his veto and is now the law in the Capital City. If the pool room proprietors are at all far sighted they can "see their finish," and it is not so very far away either. The majority of the people will not stand for open gambling houses, and though they may run for a while a sentiment is certain to be created that will eventually close them so tight that it will be impossible to ever open them again. All the wagering that is necessary to be done can be done on the tracks where the horses race, and the people are pretty unani-

mous in this belief in San Francisco as well as Sacramento. It need not surprise the pool room proprietors if a State law is passed by the next legislature which they will find it impossible to evade, and the only fear is that the pool room gamblers will arouse so much antagonism before then that the State law makers will want to stop all racing entirely.

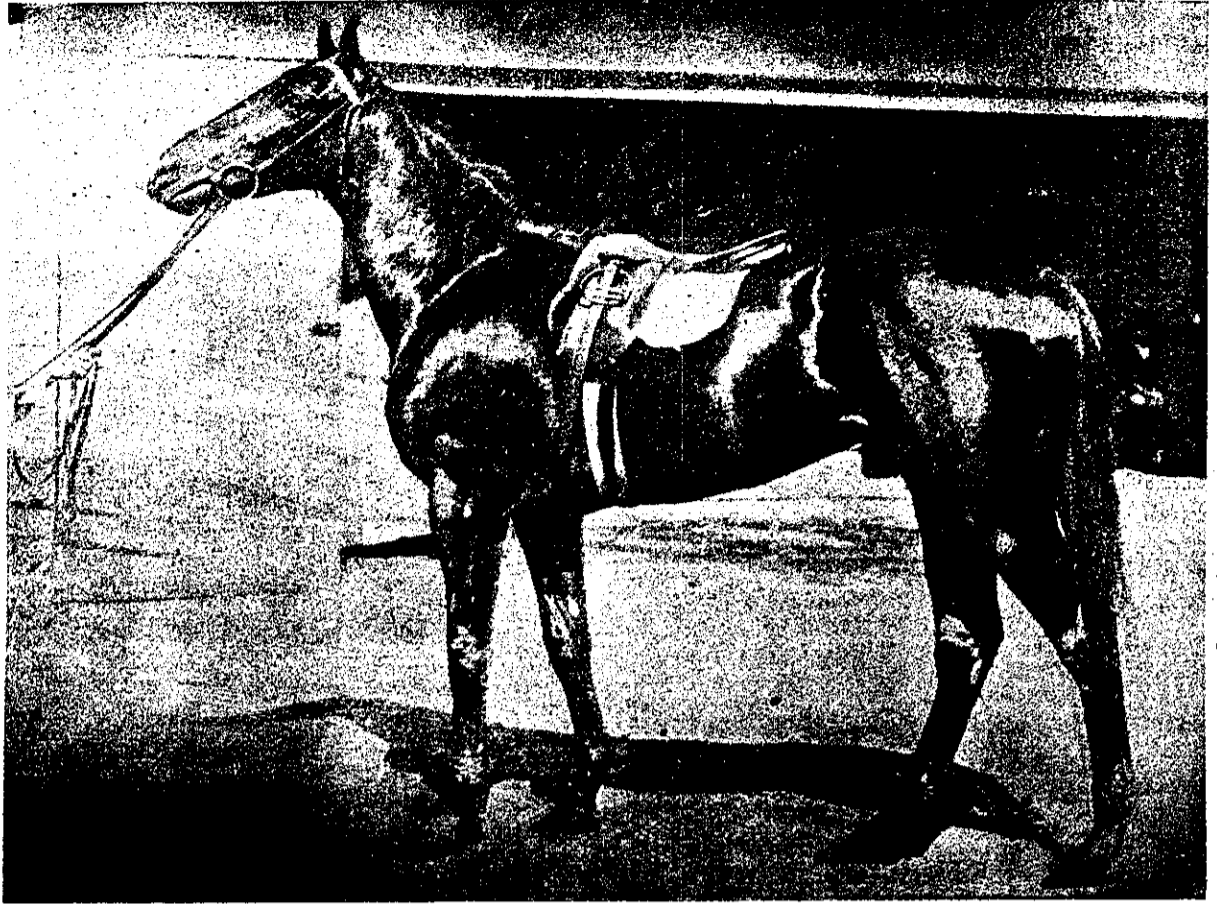
THE LICENSING BILL.

The following is a synopsis of the Bill introduced on Tuesday in the House of Representatives. The measure provides for nine provincial option districts, coterminous with the old provincial districts maintaining the present licensing districts, as under the Representation Act; committees to be elected as at present, with the magistrate as chairman. Polls will be taken within these districts in the same manner as they were taken for local option in the electoral districts; the first poll to be taken next general election day. Two questions will be referred to the electorates: Whether licenses in the provincial option districts shall be granted or not? These are the two questions that will have to be decided by the poll. If a three-fifths majority decide for total prohibition, then on June 30th thereafter all licenses shall be at an end in the districts where the poll is carried. The electors will, at the same time, by referendum, be called upon to vote at the first poll whether the next poll shall be taken at the

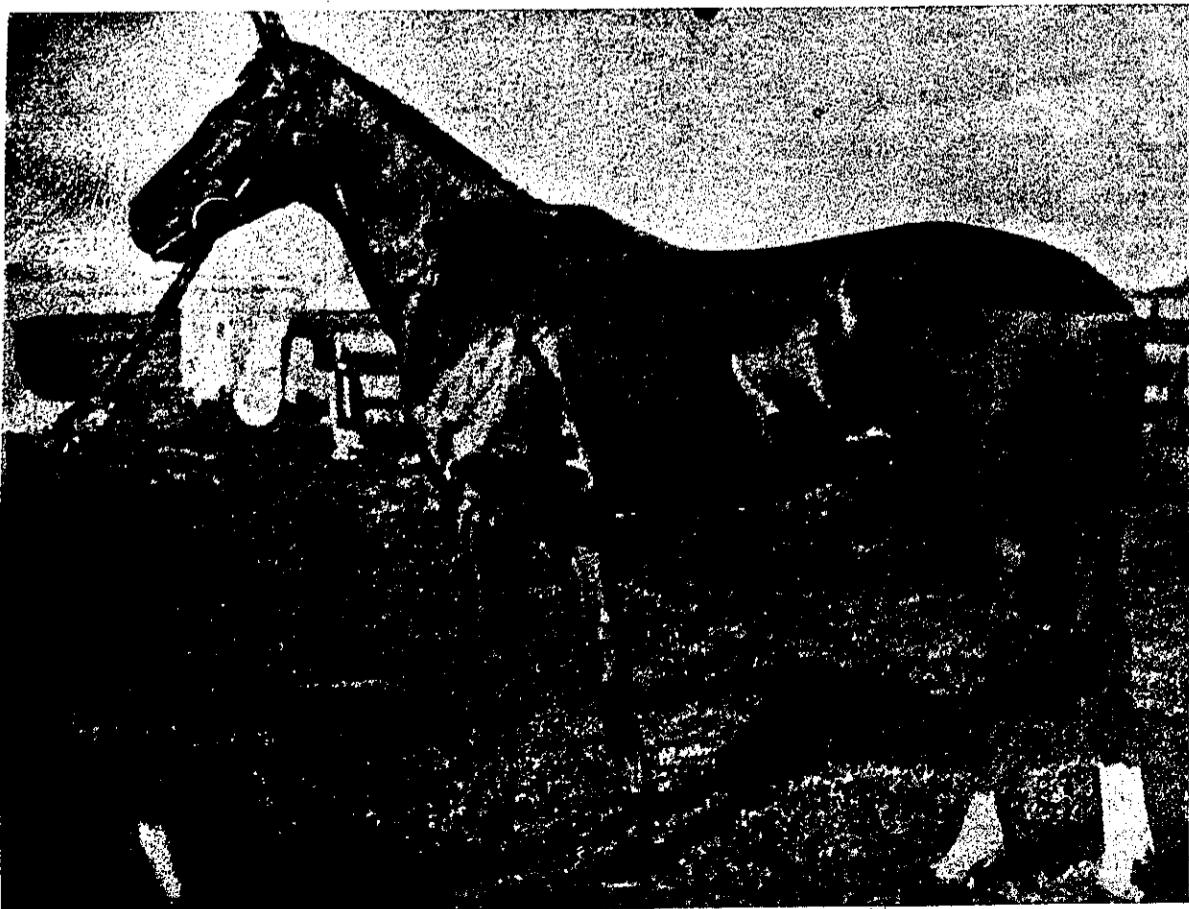
next general election or at the succeeding one; that is, they will have to decide by referendum whether the decision shall have effect for three or six years. In the exceptional case of the Clutha district, which has already declared for prohibition, provision is made that when the first provincial option is made, if the Clutha electors, by a three-fifths majority, declare against prohibition, then licenses may be granted in the ratio of one to every 700 of the population, but unless there is a three-fifths majority the present state of affairs will continue. If the provincial local option polls are against prohibition then the licenses will remain as they are. No provision is made as to the question of reduction. Licensing matters in the King Country are to remain as at present, until a Royal Commission has reported thereon. As to endorsement, power is given to the Court to exercise its discretion in respect to endorsements. Four convictions against a person shall disqualify the premises for one year. Licensees are authorised to sell from six a.m. to half-past ten p.m.; any extension beyond that to be at the discretion of the Committees. As to endorsements on existing licenses, if there is no additional endorsement within twelve months from the last endorsement, a fair start will be given the licensee if there is not more than one conviction. Any person who for the purpose of obtaining liquor represents himself as a traveller is liable to a penalty of £10. As to removal of licenses and evading the Act by the quarter-mile limit, it is provided in cases of licenses lapsing the Committee shall not, until after taking the next

poll, grant any licenses in respect to premises situated more than a-quarter of a mile from the premises in respect of which the lapse occurred. A penalty of £10 is provided for providing a prohibited person with liquor. The power of attorney by which, when a hotel is sold, the owner could evict the purchaser is declared to be void. Wine licenses can be granted in counties as well as in boroughs. The sale of mixed parcels of liquors to make up two gallons is prohibited, and wholesale breweries cannot sell less than two gallons of any one liquor. Prosecutions for breaches of the law shall be commenced within 21 days after the breach of the law. Licenses or transfers are not to be granted unless the applicant holds a written lease for a term of not less than four years, leases to be lodged with the clerk of the Court, with a statement of the moneys paid in respect of goodwill and stock. It shall not be lawful for a landlord to take a bonus for a transfer of a license, nor shall a landlord refuse a transfer to a fit person. The owner of premises who may be a brewer or wine and spirit merchant shall only charge the current rates. Clubs to be subject to the provisions of the Licensing Act.

Poor old Imp, than whom a gamer mare never trod the American turf, has, possibly, run her last race, says an American exchange, and little wonder at it, for she has been in constant training ever since the season opened in May. In the Brighton Handicap, which was one of the fastest races ever run in America, Imp carried 130lbs and finished a good third. Sometime during the race she must have hit herself, for when she pulled up her fetlock was bleeding. She was started again too soon after this injury, and the wound was re-opened, but in the race in question she showed her gameness by winning. After only two days' rest, she was brought out in the Islip Stakes against Ethelbert, and the latter made a regular show of her. The poor old mare did not seem to have her speed, but her courage enabled her to keep the lead for about six furlongs; Ethelbert then went by and won as he pleased. Considerable damage was done to her fetlock in this race, and the wound was bleeding badly, so this time a long rest is imperative. It is doubtful whether she will be seen with the colours up again—certainly not this season.



MR. R. ORR'S BR O MALTSTER, 3YRS (BY BILL OF PORTLAND—BARLEY.)



MR. J. M. ROBERTS' BR O CORNQUIST, 4YRS (BY ABERCOBN—SOMNILOQUIST.)

