

TURF GOSSIP.

(From our Travelling Correspondent).

HAWERA, January 12.

Mr. Morse, the caretaker of the Egmont Racing Club's racecourse, has the course proper, enclosures and tracks looking at their very best at present in view of the club's summer meeting, which takes place next month. Mr. J. Turton (secretary) has all the details well in hand, and provided the climatic conditions are favourable, the club should experience a very successful time indeed.

C. Jackson has in work in this town a nice cut of a galloper in a three-year-old gelding by Coronet from Nita who gives indications of turning out useful. The youngster, who is named Tyson, will be seen in action at the Egmont and Taranaki meetings next month.

Florist, the sensational New Plymouth dividend payer, is doing well under T. Pine's guidance. The chestnut daughter of Lupin must be kept in view for events to be decided during the next few weeks.

Cheddar, who was purchased by Mr. Hawkins of, New Plymouth, made his first appearance on the local tracks on Wednesday last and created a very favourable impression by the manner in which he strode over the ground. The price paid for the son of Merriwee was £510. Cheddar is to be prepared for his future racing career by R. Johnson at New Plymouth.

Hector Gray will ride Bon Ton in the Wellington Cup, while the Midhurst horseman will have the mount on Ratana in his Trentham engagements.

G. Musson, of New Plymouth, is taking Princess Flo and Glenfern to Foxton. The pair should have many admirers in their contests at the flat town.

The stable presided over by Percy Johnson at New Plymouth experienced a very successful run during the Christmas racing campaign. Inmates from the Fritzroy establishment won six races, while they finished in second position on four occasions. Wins were gained by Sandy Paul (2), King Chira, White Crane, Butcher Boy and Ratana, while the horses named finished in second place in several instances. As the successes were gained at Ellerslie, New Plymouth and Stratford, the performance makes very interesting reading and proves that Johnson has the happy knack of getting his team up to concert pitch when the occasion arises.

R. Johnson at New Plymouth has a useful team in work for this season's racing events. "Dick's" little list includes Toatere, Rewipoto, Isola, Simple Sam, and a two-year old colt, a half-brother to Rewipoto by King Rufus—The Boyne. The horses named are all well forward in condition and should, in the ordinary course, bring prestige to Johnson's establishment during the next few months.

Simple Sam will be seen out in spring events at Foxton. The chestnut is speedy over a short course.

Nominations for all events in connection with the Taranaki Jockey Club's Autumn meeting, which takes place on February 11th and 12th, close with the secretary, Mr. E. P. Webster, at New Plymouth at 9 p.m. on Friday, the 16th inst. With a

capital bill of fare there should be a liberal response from owners and trainers when the lists close.

Wild Lupin, who bears no ill-effects from his New Plymouth and Stratford exertions, is pleasing P. Coffey by his work on the Hawera tracks. The chestnut should add considerably to his winning account at the Taranaki meeting next month.

P. Johnson has a lengthy team in work at New Plymouth, his little list comprising White Crane, Ratana, Butcher Boy, Watine, King Chira, Advancer, Warea, Sandy Paul, Alpha, and a two-year-old colt by Patronus from Fancy Work. With such a useful team, the genial Percy should be gladdening the hearts of some of his clients during the remainder of this season's racing.

R. J. Milne at Normanby has Maniaroa in capital trim. The son of Maniapoto—Grassmere, who won at New Plymouth, gives promise of representing Mr. Good's stallion with some further success during the next few months.

Powder Fox, who has been a dismal failure, is still being kept up to the collar by T. Wilson at Awapuni. The son of Menschikoff will be given another opportunity to retrieve his laurels at the Foxton meeting. If the gelding does not run up to expectations he will be retired from the turf.

The loss of Lady Menschikoff will fall heavily on Mr. G. Clareburt, of Hawera, as he was the owner of the mare. She was held on lease by D. Thompson, and at the time of writing it is not known whether she was insured or not.

The recent disastrous fire at the Harp of Erin Stables at Ellerslie, whereby some valuable thoroughbred horses were destroyed, has given rise to some talk as to the risk by fire. It has long been recognised by some trainers that horse boxes should never be locked, and in this connection it may be mentioned that R. J. Mason never takes the precaution of locking up his horses at night, always recognising that animals have a more favourable opportunity of being saved in the event of fire than they would if they were under lock and key. The writer has long been of the opinion that trainers should bind together and between them appoint a man whose duty it would be to keep watch over the horses at night. The charge would be infinitesimal, and it is hoped the suggestion will be taken up by those concerned for the welfare of the horses under their care.

Minora, the half-sister to Lady Menschikoff by Patronus, is doing well under G. Clareburt's guidance at Hawera. The mare gives indications of doing her owner-trainer some useful service in the near future.

Lord Lupin, who got into the money at the Stratford meeting, is moving along nicely on the Waverley tracks. M. Gardner entertains hopes of the black horse faring well during the remainder of this season.

J. F. Butler at Stratford has Conney and Rector Girl looking in the picture of condition. The latter will be seen out at Foxton, where she should give a good account of herself.

Owing to the disastrous fire at Auckland, A. Hall has had to cancel his projected visit to Australia. He intended leaving at once with Denise Orme, Phroso and North East, but

the death of Phroso and the injury to Denise Orme will render the trip impossible. Mr. G. F. Moore, of Kai Iwi, is to be sympathised with on the loss of his valuable mare Phroso, and so is Mr. G. Clareburt, owner of Lady Menschikoff. Both mares won at the recent Auckland R.C. meeting, and their prospects for the future appeared particularly bright.

The Diver is standing up to his work well on the fielding tracks. The grey son of Captain Webb should keep his opponents busy in hurdle events at the Foxton meeting.

M. Gardner is keeping his team busy at Waverley, and with horses of the calibre of Zetes, Fisher, Calais and Lord Lupin, Gardner is under the impression that he will land some additional stakes before the present season draws to a close.

A. Jackson at Wanganui is giving Coromandel a thorough preparation for his Foxton Cup contest. With Lord Renown at Wellington the gelding should have an opportunity of distinguishing himself as the opposition will be very weak.

AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING AMENDED.

The alterations to the Australian Rules of Racing, passed at the conference held at Melbourne at Cap time, were adopted by the Australian Jockey Club last month. The alterations have also been adopted by the South Australian Jockey Club and the Tasmanian Racing Club.

LOCAL RULES OF RACING.

"16a. The stewards may take possession on a racecourse of any horse which has been entered for or ran in any race, and detain such horse for the purpose of examination, identification, or observation for such period as they think proper, without being liable for any damages in consequence of the exercise of such powers or otherwise."

"122a. After a horse has left the weighing enclosure, or such enclosure or place as is mentioned in the next preceding rule, to proceed to the starting-post, no owner, trainer, or other person connected with such horse shall, except by leave of the stewards, judge, or starter, call back or speak to its jockey or rider, or touch or interfere with such horse or any of its equipments."

It has long been the practice in this State to enforce the law as set out in rule 122a, but it was not until now embodied in the rules of racing.

The alterations and additions to the Australian Rules of Racing, agreed to at a conference of delegates representing the principal race clubs in the Commonwealth during the currency of the V.R.C. Spring meeting last month, came before the committee and were adopted.

In connection with the interpretation of "disqualified" or "disqualification," clause (c) has been altered to read "as regards a person or horse disqualified by any club other than a principal club, until such disqualification has been disallowed or removed by the committee of the principal club, disabilities shall attach and be applicable so far as they relate to or upon the course whereon such disqualification was imposed." The rule regarding registered meeting or registered race meeting was

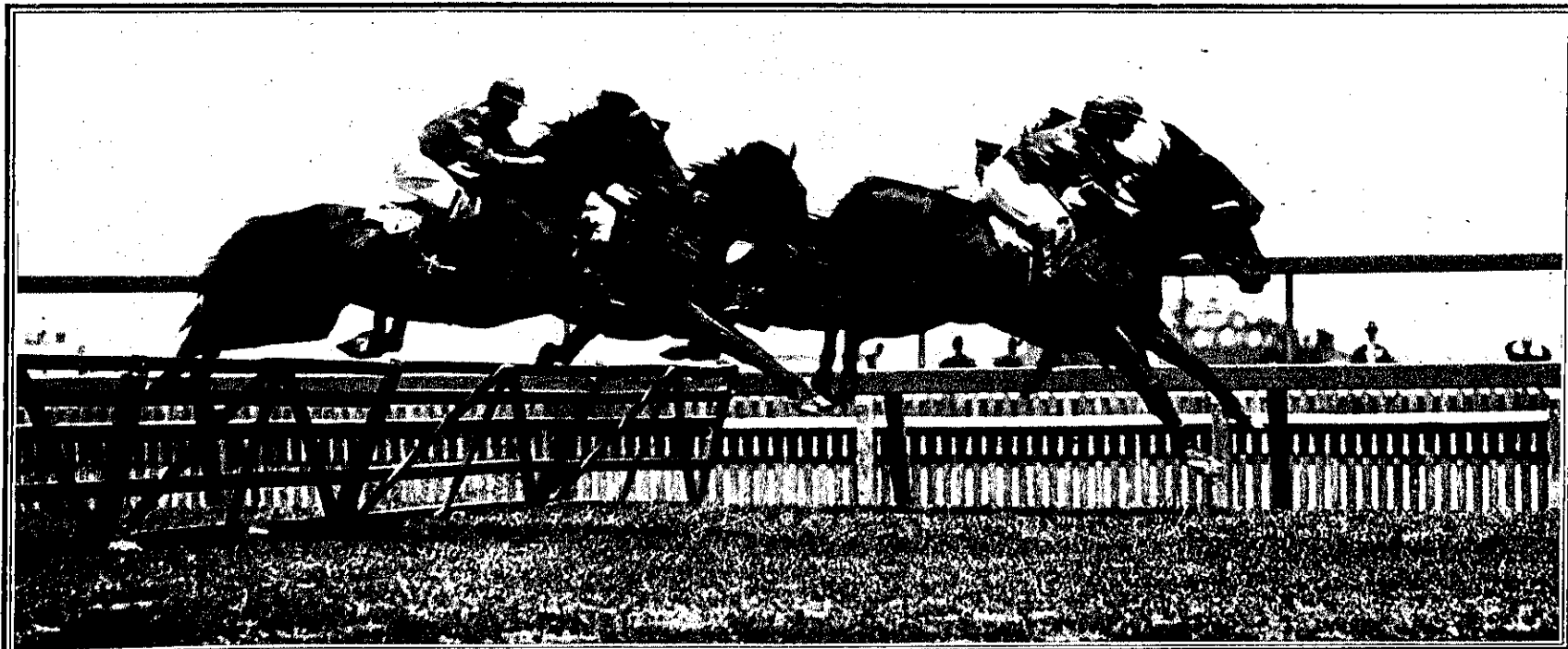
amended by the addition "and as regards race meetings held outside the Commonwealth means any race meetings held under the rules of a club recognised or affiliated with a principal club." Clause (a) of the rule concerning the registration of racehorses has been amended by providing "that the name of any foal or yearling which has been entered for any race shall be registered at least 30 days before the date of any particular race in which it is proposed to start it. Unless its name shall have been so registered the entry of that particular event shall be void, but the owner or nominator shall, nevertheless, be liable for the stakes and forfeits." Provided further that the committee may from time to time, by resolution dispense with such registration in the case of horses registered outside the Commonwealth for any particular race. The word "suspicious" was struck out of several clauses, and the word "improper" inserted. The following is the new rule with regard to running in heats:—"No race shall be run in heats. Provided, however, that with the object of preventing accidents by limiting the number of starters, the committee may, on such terms and conditions and under such circumstances as they may from time to time prescribe, authorise the stewards to allow any race to be divided into two races, and may direct the committee of the club holding the race meeting at which such race to be divided is run, to add to the stake an amount not exceeding the original amount for such race."

JOCKEYS' FEES.

With regard to jockeys' fees, in the absence of special agreement, the following must be paid:—For a winning mount on the flat, when the value of the prize to the winner does not exceed £30, 10s and 5 per cent. of such value; when the value of the prize exceeds £30, but does not exceed £100, £3. For a losing mount on the flat, when the value of the prize does not exceed £30, 10s; £30 to £100, £1; when the value of the prize exceeds £100, £2. For a winning mount in a hurdle race or steeplechase, when the value of the prize to the winner does not exceed £50, £2 and 5 per cent. of such value; £50 to £100, £5; £100 to £200, £10; £200 to £300, £20; when the value of the prize exceeds £300, 10 per cent. thereof. For a losing mount in a hurdle race or steeplechase, prize not exceeding £50, £1; £50 to £100, £3; £100 to £300, £5; over £300, £10.

VOTING PAPERS.

Rule 163 provides that "at any meeting of delegates convened under rule 162 any delegate or delegates may represent one or more principal clubs, and for the purpose of deciding any question arising at any meeting the delegate or delegates representing the respective clubs shall be entitled to the number of votes mentioned in the following scale:—For the Australian Jockey Club and Victoria Racing Club, five votes for each club; for the South Australian Jockey Club and the Western Australian Turf Club, three votes for each club; for the Queensland Turf Club, two votes; for the Central Queensland Racing Association, Tasmanian Turf Club, and Tasmanian Racing Club, one vote for each association or club."



TAKING THE LAST FENCE IN THE NEW YEAR HURDLE RACE AT THE VICTORIA RACING CLUB'S MEETING AT FLEMINGTON. THE EVENT IN QUESTION WAS WON BY McALPINE.