

The Wellington Racing Club's meeting attracted a record crowd of Christchurch sportsmen—in fact, so great was the crowd that on the Monday berths on the ferry steamer were unobtainable.

M. Hobbs' large team has been strengthened recently by the addition of Vanna, a three-year-old daughter of Charlemagne II. and Savanna.

Mumura went sore after joining F. Claridge's team, and is now being spelled.

Mars, in G. Murray-Ansley's stable, is being treated for some internal complaint. Fortunately the ailment is not of a serious nature, and Ansley expects to have her in work again in time for next month's meeting at Riccarton.

F. Christmas has taken in hand a four-year-old roan mare by Daystar.

Most of the Canterbury sportsmen who attended the Wellington Racing Club's meeting returned home on Sunday, while a big contingent of the horses followed on Tuesday. It is agreed on all hands that the conduct of the meeting left little to be desired, but I have heard several owners refer to the inequalities of the handicapping. One of the discontented ones was R. J. Mason, who asked the club for an explanation of the handicapping of Emperador in the Summer Handicap. He pointed out that in the Waterloo Stakes (one mile) Emperador was beaten by Martius when giving away 4lbs, and for that defeat he was asked to meet Martius on 4lbs worse terms in the

promising juveniles engaged at the Dunedin meeting in Athaldana, by Menschikoff from Themia, and Tuniso, by Andrea—Tunis. Altogether Mr. Patterson has eleven yearlings, mostly Australian-bred, that he intends to have handled shortly.

H. Thompson has a very likely two-year-old in St. Helen, by Boniform from Helen Portland, in work, and like her parents she knows how to gallop.

On the concluding day of the Wellington Racing Club's meeting the Ashburton trainer, C. Griffin, was taken suddenly ill, and had to be removed to a hospital. According to latest advices he is now progressing satisfactorily.

Like others of the Chokebore team, Briar Patch is evidently not too reliable with the colours up. Before leaving Riccarton she had a host of admirers, but her form in the City Handicap at Wellington diminished their numbers greatly, and incidentally cost them a good deal of money.

During his visit to the Wellington meeting, Mr. P. Herman purchased Moddite, by Royal Artillery from Quietest, who has now gone into W. McDonald's stable at Riccarton.

After doing a gallop a few mornings ago, Self, a member of D. Roberts' team, pulled up very lame, and will have to be spelled.

The first of the visiting contingent with engagements at the Canterbury J.C. Summer meeting, in Merton and Missile, arrived at Riccarton on Monday. They are in charge of the Grey-

acceptors for the Wellington Cup, consequently consternation ruled supreme when news came through from Trentham that the Pallas horse had gone sore. It transpires that the seat of the trouble was in the feet. The horse is to be brought home at once and rested in the meantime in the hope that he can be nursed round to permit of his racing at Wingatui next month.

The fact that a heavily laden special train was late in reaching the Wairio course last week restricted the club's profits to some extent, consequently the surplus only amounted to about £80. However, this balance is very satisfactory in view of the fact that the stakes were largely increased over those of last season.

At the time of writing, despite the fact that the Gore R.C.'s Summer fixture is in progress, a very large number of southern racing people are chiefly interested in the forthcoming meeting of the Forbury Park Trotting Club in Dunedin next week. It promises to be the most important gathering devoted to the light-harness sport ever held in Otago's capital. Private advice from Christchurch is to the effect that some very smart Canterbury novice horses are to be seen out in the hoppers, and it can also be claimed that a number of excellent free-legged performers will be in evidence from Southland—they are probably more true-gaited trotters in commission in this province at the present time than anywhere else in Maoriland, a fact for which old Bellman is mainly to be thanked.

In the case of Pretty Jane, she was at Gore in readiness for the local meeting when the trouble arose, and H. Donovan had actually travelled all the way down from Riccarton to ride her in her engagements.

The Gore Cup of 250sovs, decided over ten furlongs yesterday, was won cleverly by Gapon, who beat Britain Crown by half a neck in a pretty finish. The winner carried 9st and ran the distance in 2min 9sec, but the track was very fast and firm. All the same, Gapon is by far the most consistent winner raced in Otago and Southland of late years, and his success in this instance was heralded by a round of cheering. There was an absence of quality in the Cup field, but this did not prevent the public enjoying a keen and interesting race.

After riding Corso successfully in the Anarima Hack Steeplechase at Wairio, the Hawke's Bay horseman, R. Gray, left by the first train for the north to enable him to fulfil engagements at Foxton. Although he only had one ride at Wairio, Gray must have found the trip south profitable, as he was rewarded to the extent of £50 for his clever horsemanship by the connections of the winner, who supported Corso heavily with almost a double-figure dividend to collect when the paying out process was entered upon.

The ex-North Islander, G. Hone, had quite a field day at Gore yesterday, winning the first two races on the card with his team of two Captain Webb mares, viz., Miss Kellerman, daughter of Edith, and Golden Webb, a speedy filly from Wild Daisy. Both were ridden by J. H. Moore, who won again later in the afternoon on Otahuhu. This young horseman, who has steered several good winners of late, is a lad who served his apprenticeship to the racing game in Auckland. It may be mentioned that Miss Kellerman was produced a second time during the day, in the Welcome Hack Race of 90sovs, but with a penalty of 5lbs included she had to put up with second place to Mr. G. D. Greenwood's castoff Moonglow, who was only conceding her a pound. Moonglow is owner and, of course, trained by G. Christie, who prepares Gapon, Simon Pure, Speedometer, and other horses raced by members of his own family. Moonglow is improving under Christie's charge and it would not be at all surprising to find the son of Treadmill and Sunslow winning a good race prior to the close of the current season.

Obsono was expected to race well in the Summer Handicap (six furlongs) at Gore yesterday, as also were Mosgiel (favourite) and Oefer, but the start was badly timed, the outcome being that the sons of Obligado and Charlemagne II. respectively got the worst of it, and Itakeho, by St. Clements from a Foulshot mare, got out quickly and stalled off Mosgiel with something to spare in the run home.

The Croydon Handicap, the final event of the first day at Gore, saw two well-backed horses in Peerless and Officious left at the post, while King Torrent, by Legerton (son of St. Leger) from Lady Torrent, by Torrent—Lady Ellen, made every post a winner, and just lasted long enough to head Aphaea to the judge's chair, despite the clever riding of jockey J. McCombe.

The starting by Mr. R. E. Harley, of Canterbury, yesterday was not up to the mark, and suffered by comparison with his work of the previous meeting of the Gore R.C. in October.



COUNSEL (W. Young) returning to the enclosure after winning the Trentham Welter Handicap (one mile). The second and third horses are SIR DONALD (L. Wilson) and AMITY (H. Gray), respectively.

Summer Handicap, run over a similar course.

Though Palisade was unable to fulfil his Wellington engagements, there is nothing seriously amiss with him. He is to be given a short spell, and will sport silk again at the Easter meetings.

A four-year-old sister to Mowbray named Lady Query, is expected to run prominently at the Dunedin Jockey Club's meeting. As yet she is somewhat on the big side, but there is no doubt as to her galloping ability.

Reports speak highly of a maiden two-year-old named Moulou, by Boniform from Ormulu, who is being trained by R. J. Mason at Yaldhurst. Mr. Harvey Patterson has a pair of

mouth trainer, W. Donnellan, who has the pair looking really well.

That speedy but erratic mare, Respond, has gone into R. Ellis' stable to be prepared for future racing.

SOUTHLAND.

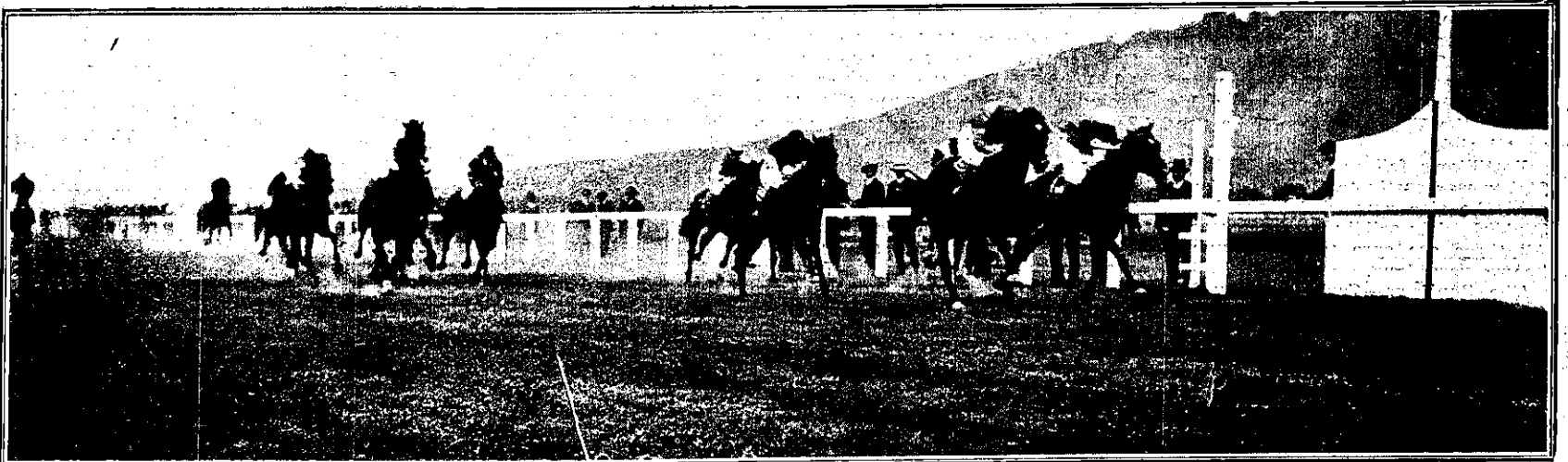
Wairio Cup Winner Develops Influenza—Gapon's Gore Cup Victory—Ex-North Island Trainer's Success at Gore.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

INVERCARGILL, January 22.

Southern backers had coupled the local horse Palisade for the Telegraph Handicap with the majority of the

The Pallas mare Hesione, who won the Wairio Cup last week, within an hour or two of her victory developed unmistakable symptoms of influenza, the outcome being that she had to be scratched for all engagements at the Gore R.C.'s meeting. Another Wairio winner put out of court by illness is the smart little mare Pretty Jane, by Martian, who has been laid aside owing to an attack of strangles. This trouble is somewhat prevalent at present, and there is a strong suspicion that its spread is in a measure due to horses afflicted being allowed to travel on the railway without due precautions being afterwards taken to disinfect the boxes used by them.



"THE SECOND LEG OF THE DOUBLE" AT WELLINGTON.—BELDAME (W. Price), on outside, wins the Telegraph Handicap (six furlongs) from SIR MOSELEY (J. O'Shea), with SURATURA (Manson) third.