



TROTTING FIXTURES. 1913-14.

Feb. 28—Otahuhu T.C.
March 11—Manawatu T.C.
April 1, 4—Auckland T.C.
April 11—Southland T.C.
April 11, 13—Wanganui T.C.
April 15, 18—N.Z. Metropolitan T.C.
April 29, May 2—Forbury Park T.C.
May 14, 16—New Brighton T.C.
June 3, 6—Canterbury Park T.C.
June 3—South Wairarapa T.C.
June 11—Ashburton T.C.

TO INCREASE ATTRACTIVENESS OF HARNESS RACING.

RADICAL TROTTING INNOVATIONS.

The American mail just to hand brings particulars of a series of proposed radical innovations which have been suggested by the National Association with a view to rendering harness racing attractive to a greater number of people. These suggestions were to have been discussed at a joint conference of the National and American magnates in Chicago, and in the event of being agreed to were then to come before the joint congress for action. Several of the innovations are of interest to followers of harness racing in New Zealand, and we therefore quote one or two of the most important—

PENALTY FOR THE HOBBLERS.

As regards hobbler a suggestion has been made that:—"Horses that do not wear hobbles shall be allowed three seconds to other allowances to which they are entitled."

The hobble business has caused the rule makers no end of trouble. They want to do something to stop the racing of horses that are shy on speed and manners unless restrained from their natural inclination by means of the leg harness. It is far easier to train a horse with hobbles than without, and this has given many a man a job as a driver who otherwise never would have had his name in a summary.

Just how the proposed three seconds penalty will be taken is a question, but if both associations agree upon it the hobbler will have to take his medicine. This is a rule that should apply to the half-mile tracks where the difference between the two kinds is more noticeable owing to the short turns, but on the mile tracks the hobbler never have shown that they had anything on the free-legged horses.

There is one thing a rule of this sort would do. It would put a premium on intelligence and ability on the part of the trainers. They would have to do some figuring in the way of balancing and other scientific details instead of slapping a pair of hobbles on a horse, and setting him going.

HELPING OUT THE VETERANS.

One suggestion has to do with the so-called outclassed horses, and these are the words:—"A horse with a record shall be allowed one second for each year in which he fails to equal or reduce his record or win a race, if same is claimed by the nominator when making the entry."

This will fit many horses that have been struggling with a lot of younger things on the various circuits. Take one of the iron-sided pacers that happened to take a mark of 2.09 1/4 in 1910 and has not been able to race up to it since then. In 1914 he would be eligible to the 2.13 class, or perhaps the 2.14 as they happen to interpret it. This would apply to his first start and of course any reduction of that record would bring him a little farther down as the season passed, but the veteran would have a chance, and would make racing more interesting all the while.

There are many of these outclassed horses in all sections and more of them would be racing if it were not for the old record. Their presence in slightly slower classes where they could hold their own would be an improvement to the sport itself.

This rule worked out with the penalty for hobbles would bring back some of the old free-legged pacers and make somewhat of a stir.

A GREAT PACING MARE.

It is doubtful (says an American correspondent) if the turf ever has seen a greater pacing mare than Leata J. Gren and uneducated so far as racing was concerned she left Pleasanton on May 1 and finished the 1913 season by winning a free-for-all at Los Angeles in 2.04 1/2.

During the year Leata J. started 11 times against stake horses and she won nine of these events, being second in four and once fourth. In her first race she met Del Rey when that horse was good and she finished back. After that she was either first or second with Frank Bogash, Jr., in the £1000 stakes, beating Murphy's fast thing three times and being beaten by him in five races. She beat Del Rey three times, also she took the measure of the fast Don Pronto.

In all of her races against Frank Bogash, Jr., the mare had to display extreme speed. In some part of every mile there was a quarter in about 30 seconds or maybe a little better. In the Chamber of Commerce stake the last halves of the three heats were 1

a well-known trainer, and for years was around Chicago, but of late he has been stationed at Riverside, California. He beat his pacer in distance covered, as he went to the Minnesota State fair, making his total something like 10,000 miles.

In addition to the Hal McKinney races, Russell started On Conn seven times, Baronteed Todd twice, Avernell eight times, Kid Downey 10 times, and Belle W. five times, which brought his gross winnings in 52 races up to £2417.

Russell made a mistake of covering too much ground, for when the season was over he proved a loser through the cost of shipping and 5 per cent. entry which he had to pay at most places.

GENERAL NOTES.

An idea of the magnitude of trotting in America is given by the fact that no less than 400 trotters and 380 pacers won £200 or more each during the 1913 season. During the season 99 pacers qualified for the 2.10 list, ten of them being in the 2.5 list.

The American colt O'Neill (2.7 1/4), who would have been one of the greatest three-year-olds of his time had he been handled as other colts are, is to go to Russia.

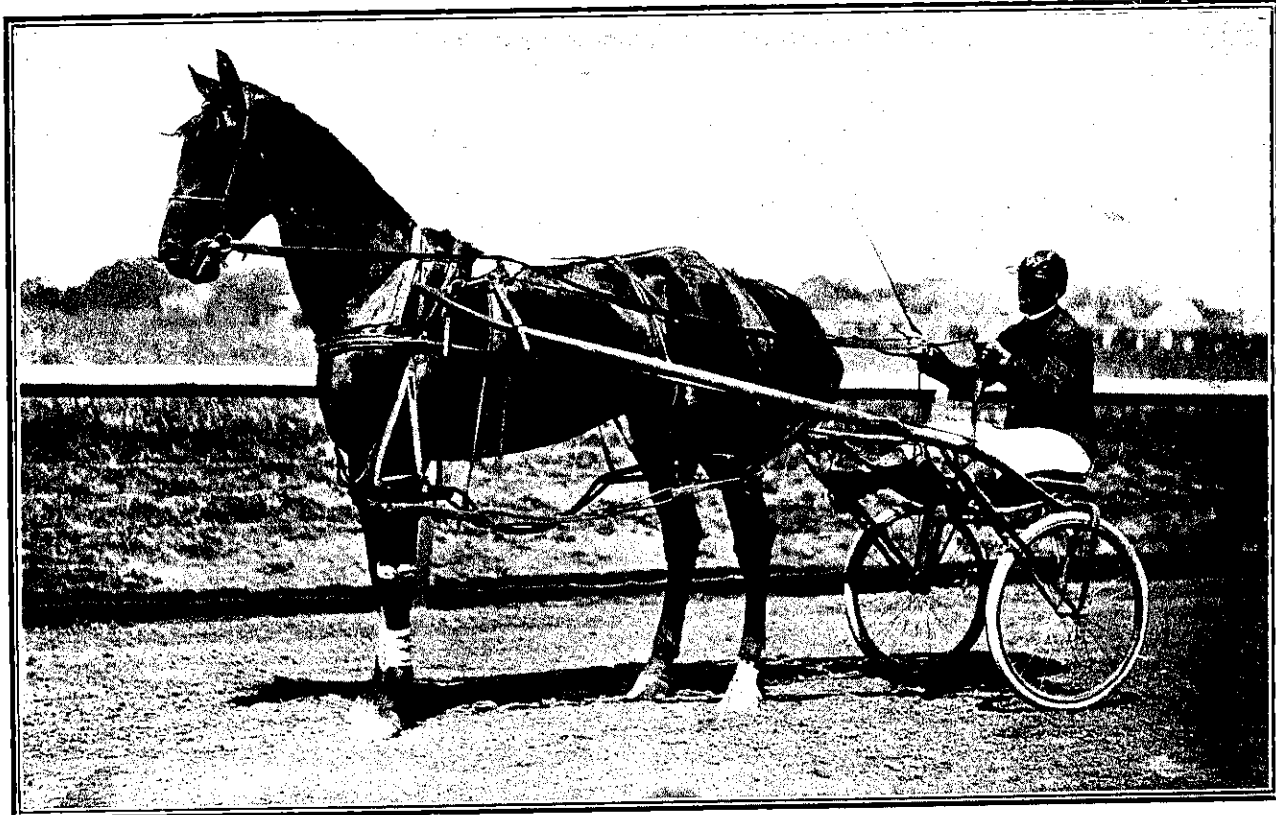
A few days ago Mr. E. E. Lelievre received word that his lately-imported mare, Bertha Beld, who was in foal to the great racehorse Harvester, had lost her foal. This is extremely unfortunate for the Akaroa sportsman, who has been put to a good deal of expense in exporting trotting stock, and loss of the progeny of such a great horse as the Harvester is doubly regrettable.

The well-known pacing stallion Driftwood has been put into training again by his owner-trainer, A. J. Munro.

The splendid form shown by Edith A in winning a two-miles trotting race at Ashburton comfortably in 4min. 40sec. was responsible for a great reduction in the list of candidates for the New Brighton Trotting Derby when second payments came to be disclosed. Still, the sixteen standing their ground include quite a number of promising three-year-olds, several of which have raced successfully this season.

By the last Australian steamer the pacer Selected was taken over to Australia by J. Brittan. Selected is a half-brother to Albert H, but is built on entirely different lines to the New Zealand Trotting Cup winner.

The well-known Christchurch horseman, B. Jarden, is at present on a visit to Auckland, and has been specially engaged to ride Grampian in his Otahuhu engagements.



AN AUCKLAND TROTTER—Messrs. Richards and Weston's b g REUBEN, aged, by Prince Imperial—unknown. T. Richards, driver.

1.00 3/4 apiece. The last half of the third heat at Hartford was in 59 3/4 seconds, and last quarters at Syracuse were below 30 seconds, two of them in 29 1/4 seconds, and the fourth in 28 seconds.

This is greater speed than shown by Star Pointer, Dan Patch, The Broncho, Citation, Lady Maud C., or any of the fast pacers. Leata J. never had the best of it, her driver not being up to the tricks of Murphy, and it frequently was remarked that if Murphy had the mare she would be unbeatable.

AMERICA'S CHAMPION TRAVELING TROTTER.

RAILED 8336 MILES DURING 1913.

The fast American pacer Hal McKinney looks to be the champion traveller of 1913, for with his driver, Al Russell, the horse made a most wonderful campaign. In all the horse covered 8336 on the railroads, raced 67 heats in 20 events and won 11 of them. This brought him about £1200.

The trip of Hal McKinney is of interest. It began at Edmonton and he had been shipped 1858 miles to get there, then found that there was no race for him. Afterwards he won at that city. Then he went to Battleford, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Regina, Moose Jaw, Winnipeg, Portage, La Prairie, back to Winnipeg, Lewiston (Me.), Bangor, Augusta, Salem, Syracuse, Detroit, Adrian, Charlotte, Springfield, Illinois and back to Riverside, California.

Al Russell, who drove the horse, is

Minnie Chimes (2.4 1/4), the American crack, has started 35 times in the last two years and been out of the money but once. She picked up \$185 dollars this year.

Our Southland correspondent writes: The annual meeting of the Southland Trotting Club was held last week, and it was shown that the loss on last season's working was £119, a result brought about by heavy and continuous rain on race day. Despite the loss referred to the club still possess a credit balance, and the members are as determined as ever to carry on until such times as a totalisator permit is available. Last season the club claimed about 230 members, and this total should be largely increased by April 22, the date fixed for the races. The stakes will amount to £255, to which will have to be added a cup valued £10 10s., to be donated by two well-known local sportsmen, Messrs. H. Stiven and W. E. Taylor. It is very hard to think that a club which can provide stakes of the foregoing dimensions cannot obtain a permit. Southland, which comes next to Canterbury as a trotter-producing province, has only a one-day light harness permit, that of the Gore T.C.

CANTERBURY NOTES.

(By Telegraph—Christchurch Correspondent.)

W. Kerr has paid up for both Admiral Wood and Camwy in the New Brighton Derby, and the better of the pair can be relied on to make Edith A do her best.

To Lady Riders.

So many gratifying testimonials have reached us from lady riders using our "Handy" riding astride habit that we have decided to advertise it more extensively.

It has taken us some years to arrive at perfection, but with the valuable suggestions we have received from numerous noted lady riders from time to time we have no hesitation in stating that it is the ONE and ONLY riding habit for ladies. Whether riding or walking it is Neat, Smart, Safe, and Effective, and has none of the clumsy features usually noticeable with the bulk of riding costumes. A letter just received from Palmerston North reads: "Please send patterns for another costume. The last one you made for me is the best I ever had, it is Perfect." It doesn't matter where you live we can fit you, our self-measure system is practically infallible. These habits are being made in our famous "Cunard Serge" (four shades), grey melton finish cloth (three shades, and grey pin-head worsteds (five shades). All at five guineas the costume.

Equestriennes will do well to write us for details, and we are willing to send a habit on approval if desired.

Note the address:

SPENCER'S CASH TAILORS,
29 HIGH STREET Auckland.

N.B.—Several ladies are making quite a nice income handling our riding habits. We can appoint a few lady agents in unrepresented districts.