

INTERPROVINCIAL.

WELLINGTON.

High-class English Importations for the Highden Stable—The Manawatu Hunt Club's Meeting—Soporific's Withdrawal From G.N. Steeplechase—Superstitious Backer's Reward—Disputed Ownership of Hurdler, Sir Donald—Three New Stewards Elected by Dannevirke Racing Club.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

WELLINGTON, Monday.

Haumakaka (Achilles—Punawai) is fairly jumping out of his skin on the Otaki tracks. Trainer Frank Higgott is looking forward to this capital galloper giving a good account of himself at the Grand National meeting next month.

D. Webster, at Otaki, is preparing Parawanui and Need for early spring racing, and judging by their track work their prospects for the future are very bright.

G. Marchant continues to ride in an exemplary manner, and his handling of his mounts at the Hunt meeting on Wednesday last was quite a treat to witness. Marchant has been engaged to pilot Fagot in the Grand National Steeplechase next month, and in this rider's hands the Gisborne-owned horse will not lose anything on the score of horsemanship.

G. Price, the "Highden" trainer, arrived back from England by the s.s. Ruahine at Wellington last week. Price brought back with him some additions to the bloodstock of the Dominion, which comprised the three-year-old bay colt Panmure, by Forfarshire—Panacea, by Cydrene—Quintessence (winner of the One Thousand Guineas), by S. Frusquin; a two-year-old filly by Troutbeck (Ladas—Rydal Mount); a two-year-old filly named Tame Duck, by Earia Mor—Duckshot, by Gallinule—Kill Hill, by Killcock—Flower of Wit, by St. Florian. Tame Duck was bought for £294, and is considered a cheap purchase. Price also brought out a nice cut of a two-year-old colt by Martagon—Macroon for Mr. F. Armstrong, of Hawke's Bay, which youngster will race as Crown Imperial. The horses were landed in excellent condition, which speaks well for the care and attention bestowed upon them on the voyage out.

A. Shearby came down from Awapuni on Monday to take charge of Crown Imperial, whom G. Price brought out from England for Mr. Armstrong. The new arrival is expected to bring Shearby's training establishment more prominently before the racing public next season.

Naupata, the Porirua candidate for Grand National honours, continues to train on very satisfactorily, and on present appearances the son of Mahaki—Lorelei gives promise of developing into an ideal cross-country horse.

J. W. Lowe, at Trentham, is keeping the three-year-old filly Chakwana (Hierarch—Peace) busy. This fine galloper is expected to carry Messrs. V. and E. Riddiford's colours of cerise and white checkers in a prominent manner in the early spring racing, for which he is being specially prepared.

Manu, who got amongst the winners at the Hunt meeting last week, is a three-year-old by Achilles—Punawai, and a full-brother to Haumakaka. The gelding was bought cheaply by the Otaki owner-trainer, N. Williams, who formerly trained for the late Mr. Hodge.

Bad weather spoilt the first totalisator meeting of the Manawatu Hunt Club, which took place at Awapuni on Wednesday last, and consequently the club's earlier expectations for a successful gathering were not realised. Owing to the continued rain the scratchings were very numerous, thus reducing the size of the fields very considerably. The totalisator returns showed that £4002 found its way through the machines. Given fine weather this amount would probably have been trebled, as a fine class of horse were engaged in all the races.

Tarero, the winner of the Otaki Steeplechase on Wednesday last, jumped in faultless style, and is evidently capable of winning in better company than was opposed to her last week. She is an aged mare by Waikaranga—Katikara, and was formerly owned by Mr. H. L. Russell, of Taranaki.

Matlow, after many disappointments, won a double at the Manawatu Hunt meeting last week for his owner,

Mr. H. D. Buchanan, of Palmerston North. Some time has elapsed since the son of Captain Webb scored, and it is quite refreshing to hear of him again catching the judge's eye.

Roseblush is coming on nicely with every gallop, and will assuredly show up prominently in hack steeplechasing events to be decided during the next few weeks. The mare's prospects for the future are highly thought of by those interested in her welfare.

Soporific's withdrawal from the Grand National Steeplechase means that the gelding has gone amiss. It is hoped that a short spell will restore this capital jumper to his usual normal condition. It is unfortunate for his Wirokino owner that Soporific should be placed out of commission on the eve of the steeplechasing season, when his talents were just at their best.

A well-known sporting owner in Mr. Sullivan has entered into possession of the Pier Hotel in this city, where his genial qualities should gain for him a wide circle of acquaintances.

The old saying that little fish are sweet is exemplified by the large number of acceptances received for the Pahiatua and Woodlands meetings, which take place this week. Quite a number of the owners state that they are anxious to give their horses a run, while a few are looking forward to the wherewithal to take them to

on his mascot number. What was his surprise to see Rapanui win easily and return the largest dividend during the afternoon, the return from the money invested amounting to well nigh a century.

S. Watson, at Awapuni, is bestowing considerable care upon The Baronet, a four-year-old gelding by Sir Laddo—Innamorata, who gives promise of turning out useful. This horse should carry Mr. F. Notrom's colours in a creditable manner during the approaching racing year.

Mrs. C. A. Messina, of Foxton, wife of the late "Toney" Messina, figured in the lists at the Manawatu Hunt meeting last week as an owner. She was represented by Wa'iriri, a three-year-old filly by Advance from Wai-puna. The youngster, who is being prepared for its racing career by F. J. Carmont, at Levin, gives promise of turning out very useful.

J. A. Farmer, who formerly occupied the position of private trainer to Mr. W. E. Bidwill, has now started in business for himself. He has in training a very promising sort of a galloper in Braemore, a three-year-old mare by Sir Laddo from Tahurangi, belonging to Mr. K. White, an esteemed and popular Porangahau sportsman. The youngster is built on galloping lines, and with the opportunity she should develop into an ideal type of the thoroughbred.

Awapuni, the four-year-old gelding by Sir Laddo—Ecliptic, is fast getting up to racing pitch under T. George, at Awapuni. This beginner to the business is a good sort, and should carry F. Atfield's colours in a creditable manner during the next few months.



RUSSIAN PRISONERS PASSING THROUGH LINZ, AUSTRIA.

Christchurch next month. Racing costs money, and with horse feed at famine prices trainers are being hard put to it to make both ends meet, and at the present moment there does not appear any prospect of prices coming down.

Quite a host of racing folk have developed a strong tendency towards anything bordering on the superstitious, and amongst them numbers always occupy a high place. A sport who attended the Manawatu Hunt meeting at Awapuni on Wednesday last always supports horses whose saddlecloths carry number 11. The wet weather being experienced caused many withdrawals, and it was not until the last race that the opportunity arrived for which he had been waiting all day. In the Fitzherbert Handicap, which marked the conclusion of the meeting, Rapanui carried number 11, and the sport in question quickly invested £3 on the totalisator

Mr. W. G. Hart, at Waikanae, has in preparation for next season a nice cut of a galloper in Leonian, a four-year-old by Bezonian from a Master Agnes mare. The mare is well built, and gives one the impression that she will be capable of winning races.

A very interesting law case, and one that is causing quite a stir in sporting circles, is set down for hearing at Palmerston North on August 17th, when the ownership of the well-known hurdler Sir Donald is to be reviewed by a judge of the Supreme Court. The facts leading up to the ownership of Sir Donald are somewhat complicated, but from the meagre details to hand it appears that Mr. Donald Fraser, the well-known and highly esteemed Rangitikei breeder, sold Sir Donald, then a yearling, to an employee on the Government railways, the latter subsequently selling the son of Advance—Lisette to Mr. F. Notrom, the assumed name of a



BRITISH PRISONERS AT WORK IN GERMANY.

genial Dannevirke sportsman, who holds the receipt for the purchase of the "circus" horse. Four years have elapsed since Sir Donald passed into the ownership of Mr. Notrom, and during this long period no objection or claim of any kind has been lodged against the horse, neither has any demand been made on the stakes won, and naturally under the circumstances the pending case has caused quite a flutter amongst sporting enthusiasts. Mr. Fraser is claiming the return of Sir Donald or in lieu thereof £400 damages for the horse's detention. The result of the proceedings is being eagerly awaited by quite a small army of sporting enthusiasts in the Rangitikei district.

S. Watson, the Awapuni trainer, with Sir Donald, who claims engagements at the Grand National meeting, is to leave Wellington for Kiccaron this evening. The circus horse is being subjected to a thorough preparation, and with G. Marchant in the saddle the chestnut should be in the fighting line at the finish of the Grand National Hurdles.

W. Adams, the clever cross-country horseman, will pilot the Hon. J. D. Ormond's Vascular (Vasco—Pellicle) in the Grand National Hurdles, while he may also have the mount on Haskayne (the Karamu representative) in the Winter Cup.

At a meeting of the Dannevirke Racing Club, held last week, three new stewards, in Mr. C. A. Jensen, of the Masonic Hotel, Mr. R. Fraser, solicitor, and Mr. R. Baker, the County Council clerk, were elected. The gentlemen named are all keen sporting enthusiasts, and they should prove a decided acquisition in the future destinies of the Dannevirke Racing Club.

The case hitherto held over Sir Donald expires on the 31st inst., and after that date the son of Advance will race under the horse's owner, a well-known and popular resident of Dannevirke, who races as F. Notrom.

T. Lloyd's little team at Marton, which includes Glenmore, Lady Renown and Aha, continue to show some promising form in their training tasks. The trio should give a good account of themselves in steeplechasing events to be decided during the next few weeks.

The latest sporting recruit to enlist in the Expeditionary Forces is Mr. "Bert" Cross, a keen racing and coursing enthusiast of Feilding. Mr. Cross' many friends are quite sanguine that he will give a good account of himself in fighting for his King and country.

SOUTHLAND.

Black Sea's Grand National Steeplechase Engagement—Addition to C. J. Heywood's Team at Riverton—A Promising Three-year-old Filly—Rosa Chamberlain.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

INVERCARGILL, July 22.

Wet tracks are still the order of the day on the Southland Racing Club's property, consequently the local Grand National Steeplechase candidate, Prairie Fire, has been sent away to South Canterbury to complete his preparation on the Washdyke course. Reports from Timaru, by the way, state that Ngatirauui is progressing favourably at Washdyke.

It is considered unlikely at the time of writing that Black Sea will carry out her Grand National Steeplechase engagement. The mare, who is now owned in Dunedin, forms one of A. I. McIvor's team at Riverton, and, it is said that she is not being overtaxed in the matter of work in the meantime. It may be that she will not be raced at Riccarton at all, but there is no guarantee that she will not be a competitor at the Otago Hunt Club's gathering in September.

Trainer C. J. Heywood, of Riverton, has received several additions to his team of late, including the unfortunate Kilkenny, by Killeheran—Cyre. This horse was purchased by a Gore sportsman some years back in Christchurch and tried out on several occasions on Southland courses, but he invariably failed to catch the eye of a judge. Kilkenny was placed in two or three races and showed promising form at times, but sickness or injuries always intervened to prevent him being wound up to top hole form.

It is reported from Winton that George Hope is greatly pleased with one of his charges, in the rising three-year-old filly by Glenculloch from Order. This youngster is furnishing nicely, and will be kept up to the collar in the meantime, with