

Calibre gelding to the care of the ex-Dunedinite.

Bearing in mind the fact that many calls are still to be made on racing clubs on behalf of patriotic funds, the Winton J.C. committee have decided not to give effect to a suggestion made by members recently that the stakes for the November fixture be raised from £1800 to £2000.

It is not always safe to prophesy at the commencement of a new season as to the strength of a particular stable, but it certainly looks at the time of writing as if A. D. McIvor has in work at Riverton the most formidable string ever placed under his care. His team comprises eight horses—his declared limit, despite some tempting offers—including: Gunrest, Buller, Neuroma, Minesweeper, Mohawk, Spanish Princess, a three-year-old half-brother to Neuroma, a chestnut gelding by Pallas—Redstart, and a three-year-old filly, ranking as a sister to All Ready, by All Red—Aerina (sister to Canrobert).

The Winton J.C. have re-appointed Mr. A. Jones as handicapper and Mr. A. G. Wood as starter for the new season.

G. McLean is busy with Glensponse and Heatherbloom (Canrobert—Rosebloom), and both are lusty and well. The latter gave promise early last season, but several mishaps put him out of court for many months.

W. Ratcliff is handling a shapely and very game-looking three-year-old gelding by Glenculloch—Flirtation, and it is on the cards that he will develop into a useful racer. He may not be quite clean-bred away back on the dam's side, but high courage has come from the same source in the past where hack racers and jumpers have been concerned.

C. J. Heywood has Jock, Orderdown, Special Order, Eager Eyes and several others in active commission at Riverton. So far, Eager Eyes has stood up to all that has been asked of her, and it is hoped that the Caesarion mare will show her heels to her rivals presently for the honour of the United States.

The well-known local owner and breeder of trotting horses, Mr. J. B. Thomson, has embarked in the Clydesdale line, having purchased the imported Scottish stallion Bancor, who will join the American sire, Russell Patch, and other trotting horses at his new owner's Middlevale Stud.

The well-known Pallas gelding Brookdale has joined J. Hymer's stable at Riverton.

It looks as if the Riverton R.C.'s tracks are to be in great request for training purposes during the present season, as thirty-seven horses have already been stripped at the Western District convincing ground, an unusual number for this time of year.

Of late Messrs. J. J. McBride (owner of Obsona), R. M. Paterson (owner and breeder of Pride o' Clutha, Golden Rupee, etc.), and G. D. Baird (owner and breeder of Copper Boy) have been rousing up their brother sportsmen in the Lakes District, with the result that it is anticipated that the Lake County J.C. will take on a new lease of life during the 1916-17 turf term. Stakes are to be increased and a new track laid out at Frankton, while every effort is to be made to induce Southland owners to visit Queenstown on the occasion of the annual reunion there of goldfields racing folk.

As a result of over-reaching Rongahere was unable to take his place in the field for the Grand National Hurdles, greatly to the disappointment of an army of supporters in Otago and Southland.

During the absence of P. T. Hogan in Christchurch his home team have been kept up to the collar, and the trainer of Rorke's Drift will become a very busy man when the tracks are fit for consistent work, as he is to have a large number of horses under his stable roof.

WANGANUI.

Leonta's G.N. Hurdles Engagement—Intrude Contracts a Cold—Miacara in Steady Work—Intending Competitors at Dannevirke and Marton—F. Tilley's Imported Juveniles Doing Well—Marton Training on Nicely—Bright Prospects for Marton J.C.'s Spring Fixture—Wanganui J.C.'s Approaching Meeting.

(From Our Wanganui Correspondent.)

WANGANUI, Monday.

Notwithstanding Leonta's disappointing displays so far this season the gelding is much fancied in many quarters for the Grand National Hurdles. His connections say that if he ever had a chance of winning the big event at Riccarton he has one

now, as he is at his best, and, moreover, has done more schooling over the hurdles this time than ever before. Added to that, he will be ridden by "Bronco" Coleman, who thoroughly understands him, and the extra distance to be covered is held to be in his favour. The many friends of Mr. T. S. Bristol, who owns the gelding, are therefore very hopeful that in this, his third try, he will land the big stake.

Marton will be taken to Dannevirke for the steeplechase, in which he should run well, as he is in very good nick.

The three-year-old full-brother to Expect in Tilley's stable, which has been named Intrude, has contracted a very bad cold, and consequently he will not be seen out at the Marton meeting. This gelding was hitting out well, and it was unfortunate that he should have gone amiss. He might be all right by the time the Wanganui meeting comes round.

First Line, in the same stable, has also had a cold, but the son of Advance—Ballarat is throwing off the effects, and it is thought that he will be able to race at Marton. He is a nice-looking sort, and bred as he is he should be able to gallop.

Miacara is in steady work, and will probably race at Marton, where the going should be to her liking. The daughter of Boniform is not too sound but she is very speedy when properly well.

Another Fordell-trained one which will be seen in action at Marton is Perrier. The son of Golden Gate has wintered well, and should give a good account of himself during the season.

The hurdler Austin has been turned out, and will not be raced for some time. 'Cello is also still enjoying a spell, and is not likely to race again until Labour Day.

The four youngsters which F. Tilley brought over from Sydney are all making good progress. The Cardinal—Beaufort colt has been broken in, and so has the Linacre colt. Both have grown into fine-looking two-year-olds, and promise to do well. The Cootrim gelding and the Cyrus colt have not yet been taken in hand, but are running in the paddock, and it will be some time before they are put into work. All who have seen the Australian-bred youngsters predict that they will, all going well, prove good stake winners.

Quite a number of horses are now in work in view of the Marton and Wanganui meetings, but nothing of any importance is being done, most of the equines being restricted to easy tasks. Marton has been jumped once or twice, and got through his work well, his lepping being clean and attractive, though it remains to be seen whether he can muster up enough pace now to win. However, he should be good enough yet to score in some of the minor steeplechase events.

The Marton meeting, to be held on the 8th September, will set the ball rolling in earnest on this coast for the new season, and some very good racing may be looked for. From all accounts several smart three-year-olds will be seen out at the meeting, and it will be very interesting to see how they shape alongside the older horses.

The liberal prize money offered by the Wanganui Jockey Club for the spring meeting, to be held on the 21st and 23rd September, should attract good entries. The Guineas race is always looked forward to with keen interest, as it usually throws considerable light on the more important classic events to follow. Nominations for the meeting are due on the 28th inst.

HAWKE'S BAY.

New Zealand's Leading Racehorse Owner—R. Gooseman's Team—Surtax's Promising Steeplechase Prospects—T. Quinlivan's Strong Team for Australia—Gold Shot Shaping Well Over Hurdles.

(From our own Correspondent.)

NAPIER, Monday.

Quietude is the name that has been selected for the two-year-old daughter of Woolloomooloo and Peaceful. It does not often occur that a stallion is seen out on the racing path when some of his progeny are also engaged in the industry, but such is the case with Woolloomooloo, for one of his sons, Woolahra, now a four-year-old, has been seen out in action.

Mr. T. H. Lowry is expected back

TO COLLECTORS OF "CAMELS."—Many thousands of "Camels" were sent in for Desert Gold Tea Competition. They are being counted with utmost despatch. All competitors will be advised of results.

from America on the next trip of the Niagara. The Okawa sportsman was an easy first in the winning owners' list for the just finished season, and established a record for a single year's winnings, his representatives having secured prize money to the extent of £17,224. Nearly half of this sum was captured by the champion filly Desert Gold. Of late years Mr. Lowry's luck has been well set in the racing arena, as during the past eight seasons horses owned by him have secured £47,298 in stake money.

Sensitive, who for a considerable period was under the tuition of S. Lindsay, at Greenmeadows, is now being trained at Hastings.

Bon Reve is going along in good style in his essays over the schooling hurdles at Hastings, the going being greatly to his liking. With the tracks of a yielding nature, the son of Boniform and Dreamer will be sure to be hard to master, and in the near future may be looked for as a winner.

R. Gooseman has got his team in nice forward condition, his pupils consisting of Indigo, Settler, Sicily, India, Step, Tekka, Mazama (King's Guest—Eland), and an unnamed son of Manalapot and Waipuratu. The latter is therefore a half-brother to Sam Wai, Wai Ariki, Rangimarie, and Fairwater.



B. RAE, the well-known Auckland cross-country rider, who piloted Waimai to victory in the Grand National Steeplechase at Riccarton on Tuesday.

Byron, who is now undergoing a course of study under A. J. Ellingham, is a regular attendant on the try-out at Hastings.

J. Laing has Hymen looking at his best, and the Karamu-bred son of Hymettius is fencing fast and cleverly over the hurdles at headquarters. Laing has also got in hand a gelding by Conqueror out of Cutterin, but he has not been asked to do a great deal as yet. He is the makings of a good one, and with luck on his side ought to have a prosperous future.

Surtax still continues to acquit himself satisfactorily in his essays over the chasing impediments at Hastings. A bold fencer with a lot of pace, he is sure to be heard of with credit over country.

On Wednesday morning Eligible, Sasanoff, Sweet Corn, Gold Painting, Shril, Chelloma and Red Pennant were entrained from Hastings for Wellington en route to Sydney. The last-named is Mr. E. J. Watt's representative, the remainder of the bunch being the property of Mr. W. G. Stead. T. Quinlivan goes in charge of the team, and he makes no secret of the fact that he expects the invading horses to make good in the Commonwealth, more especially Eligible and Sasanoff. The latter, he avers, is absolutely the best two-year-old that he has ever had under his tuition, and it must be admitted that he has been responsible for the education of quite a number of real good youngsters. If his opinion is not at fault, there should be a good time ahead of the son of Martian and Ukraine.

Gold Shot, who so far has not run up to expectations, is being given education over the hurdles at Napier Park by trainer-owner J. Oldfield. Like most of the Gold Reefs, he shows a lot of talent in the negotiation of the obstacles.

CANTERBURY.

Grand National Hurdles—Record Number of Visiting Horses at Riccarton for Winter Meeting—Accident to Jockey—Crib in Fine Fettle—Fancied G.N. Hurdles Candidates—Eleventh Hour Anticipations.

(By Telegraph—Christchurch Correspondent.)

CHRISTCHURCH, Monday.

It was not decided till the eleventh hour as to whether Kooya would contest the Winter Cup or the National Hurdles. Eventually Mr. Oliver made up his mind to withdraw the mare from the Winter Cup and despite her recent mishap she has plenty of friends for the big hurdle event.

No horse will strip fitter for the Grand National Hurdles than Leonta, who put in an appearance at Riccarton on Friday. Before leaving Fordell he was schooled over the hurdles on three occasions, and jumped splendidly.

The veteran trainer J. George arrived at Riccarton on Friday with Crown Pearl and Glenroy. After the Wellington meeting he had to undergo an operation, from which he made a satisfactory recovery.

There are more visiting horses at Riccarton at present for the National meeting than in any previous year. Taken all round the schooling work was by no means attractive, especially over the big obstacles. This was due to the state of the tracks, which were so treacherous as to make jumping over country very hazardous.

Vascular met with a slight mishap when being worked at Karamu, and consequently did not come South with the rest of Waddell's team.

When schooling Selbrook over the big fences on Thursday, Weston sustained a bad spill at the last obstacle. His mount turned a "severer," and rolled over the jockey, who sustained a compound fracture of the jaw.

During his presence at Riccarton with Kron Park, the Northern trainer W. Barnett received word of the death of his wife in the Palmerston Hospital.

As a result of the fall off Recharge at Riccarton on Thursday, the Southern horseman F. Ellis sustained a broken collarbone. This is particularly hard luck for Ellis, as he had quite a number of engagements at the Grand National meeting.

Crib arrived at Riccarton on Thursday, looking in nice trim. He was suffering from a cold after the Wellington meeting, but soon threw off its effects. Such a genuine stayer can be relied on to give a good account of himself now that the distance of the hurdle race has been increased to two and a-half miles.

Later.

Quite the most interesting event on Thursday's card at Riccarton will be the Grand National Hurdle Race, which bears a particularly open appearance. Crib is such a genuine stayer that with an uninterrupted preparation he would have had rare prospects. As it is he can hardly be at his best. Styxax has got through a solid preparation, but Pursefiller will probably run herself out before reaching the end of the two and a-half miles. Kooya's mishap is bound to affect her prospects, but Te Onga is certain to run a great race. He is one of the most fancied candidates, and should Waimai win the Steeplechase will probably start favourite. No horse in the race looks in better trim than Leonta, who will assuredly take a hand in the finish. He has improved a good deal in his jumping, and will be ridden by L. Coleman. Harbour Light's schooling displays have not been reassuring; he is inclined to run down his fences, but may do better in company. A very promising trio are Master Regal, Marconi, and Crown Pearl, taking a line through their track work. Marconi will take a lot of beating; he is very well, and has gained confidence in his jumping. Amongst the lightweights nothing has done better schooling work than Golden March.

The riders in the Grand National Hurdles will be: Crib, W. Filling; Styxax, J. O'Connell; Pursefiller, B. Poulgrain; Kooya, A. J. McFinn; Te Onga, F. Tutchin; Leonta, L. Coleman; Harbour Light, J. Deerey; Master Regal, F. Flynn; Marconi, S. Henderson; Crown Pearl, L. Traill; Tararu Jack, A. Wormald; Gladful, W. Bush; Art, D. McKay; Kilmeny, H. McSeveney; Tenacious, W. Standen; Sir Solo, Stan Reid; Golden March, A. McDonald; St. Elmn, R. Hunt; Multicipal, H. Lorrigan.

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