

TURF TOPICS.

Bunting is under marching orders for Australia. A useful bit of All Black.

It is pleasing to note the name of Bisogne in the flat race entries for the Great Northern meeting.

Wanganui nominations were taken on Friday, and are very satisfactory. They constitute a record.

Ireland, by Kilcheran, bred in this country, is still a topweight carrier in Western Australia.

The Otahuhu Trotting Club donated £100 to the Y.M.C.A. Trench Comforts Fund during last week.

Shrill, who was reported amiss at Trentham after her second win there, is engaged at the A.R.C. winter meeting.

Weights for the Great Northern Hurdles, Steeples and Cornwall Handicap are due on or about Monday next.

Arlington, who seemed to have felt the effects of the going at Feilding, where he won, is engaged in events ahead.

Sylvan Knight should run a good mile and a-half over hurdles, and if sent to Egmont will have a few followers from the Auckland district.

The Campfire horse Depredation, winner of the Auckland Cup, is still lame—it is thought from muscle strain.

J. O'Shea 59, A. Reed 56, J. Olsen 53 and C. Emerson 50 are the four leading riders in the Dominion. B. Deeley, with 45, has pulled up well.

Comedy Prince is the name claimed for the Comedy King colt from Rattler (full-sister to Seahorse and dam of Vice-Admiral).

The Auckland Trotting Club did the right thing when they installed the Higgins starting machine at Alexandra Park.

Handicaps for the Wanganui J.C. and Auckland R.C. meetings will be declared by Mr. H. Coyle, owing to the illness of Mr. G. Morse.

Tarero has been again entered for steeplechases at Ellerslie, and has apparently made a recovery from what looked a bad break-down in the spring.

A. J. McFlinn is making steady progress in hospital quarters, and there are hopes that his injured knee may mend so that he can ride again.

The horses entered for the Auckland R.C.'s winter meeting are from different parts of the North Island, but very few from the South Island claim engagements.

The entries received for the six leading races of the winter meeting of the A.R.C. look encouragingly good, but there are some noticeable absences.

A number of Auckland sportsmen are out with dog and gun for the opening of the shooting season. The season should be favourable, for duck especially.

Auckland owners have rarely, if ever, nominated more freely for a meeting of the Egmont R.C. than for the meeting which takes place next week.

Mr. T. H. Lowry's team of horses went back to Woodville training quarters after the Wellington meeting. This is not far from Palmerston North by rail or road.

El Gallo has not only been nominated for the Great Northern Hurdles and Great Northern Steeplechase, but for the Cornwall Handicap, of one mile and a-quarter on the flat.

El Gallo, Morecambe, Art, Tararu Jack, Waimai, Te Onga, Arlington, Hereford, Diavolo, Kurapai, Spalperion and St. Elmn each claim Great Northern Hurdles and Great Northern Steeplechase engagements.

People who try to pick winners do so at their own risk. Still they will try, and they are trying very often before the weights appear. For some time past El Gallo has been wanted for the A.R.C. Great Northern double by some of those who like to be in early.

Thrice, the crack two-year-old in Australia, who has won more in stakes than any other of his age, is talked of as one of the Derby propositions, but his half-brother Three cannot get a mile properly.

Steel Bell, the heroine of the Auckland Trotting Club's recent meeting, is capable of still better deeds, and there was never a steadier or more consistent pacer at Alexandra Park, and few more genuine stayers have stripped there.

The Manawatu Racing Club's autumn meeting has now been definitely fixed for May 16th and 17th. The acceptances are record ones, and the meeting will be a big success given fine weather.

Royal Artillery, who up to a comparatively recent date had been well represented at the annual sales of yearlings at Randwick, was sold for 35 guineas last month. He is getting on in years, but cost 1000gns. at the break up of the late Mr. G. G. Stead's stud.

Rinaldo was not sold when sent to Sydney sales, and may be brought back to the Dominion. The son of Charlemagne II. and Demeter may be given a chance to earn distinction at the stud. He is a member of the No. 7 family, and has two strains of Musket on his dam's side.

Mr. A. Pringle became the owner of Erroneous on Friday last, and the Finland—Misinform filly goes to Otago. She was put up to auction, and bought for 35 guineas, but there was some mistake about the time the sale was to take place, and she was re-sold at a considerable advance.

Mr. Harry Hayr has gone to Hawke's Bay, where he will give demonstrations with the patent ticket-issuing machine which was lately invented in Auckland. He is the representative of a small syndicate who have secured the world's rights thereto.

Hymestra should have a picnic in the Hawke's Bay Stakes, unless he should happen to stop before getting to the end of the six and a-half furlongs, of which there is thought to be no need to anticipate. The company does not look likely to be top class.

Hopfield and Colonel Soult figure as entrants in the Great Northern Hurdle Race. Either might be useful at that line of business if given a chance, but so far as we know neither have been over anything higher than mushrooms so far. The Colonel comes of a jumping line, his dam being a full-sister to Record Reign.

Luperino was taken to Palmerston North for the Manawatu meeting, and is being worked there pending a decision as to what his movements are to be. His owner did not receive a big inducement to take on the Egmont meeting but he is developing usefulness and may turn out a fair horse when well seasoned.

It is said that J. O'Shea was one of the saddest of the sad when Desert Gold, on which he had won nineteen consecutive races, got beaten at Trentham, and it was a big disappointment to that rider when Kilboy and The Toff both finished in front of the bonny daughter of All Black, as he was confident she would keep on

Di Gama is still racing in South Australia.

meeting were sired by Flavus and three by Tressady.

The prices for yearlings at the autumn sales in New South Wales averaged better than last year.

Green Cap, an imported gelding by Martagon, sire of Martian and Allowmas, was the hero of the A.J.C. autumn meeting at w.f.a.

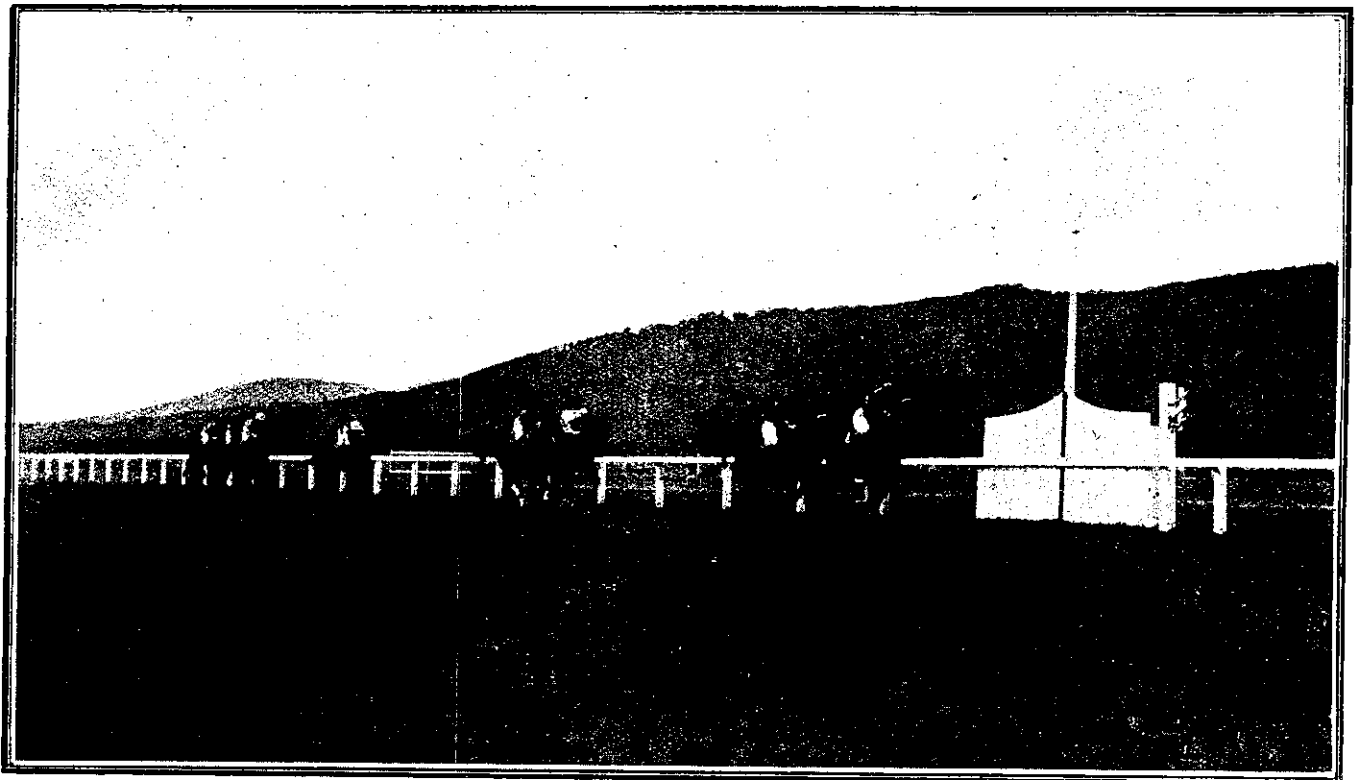
Fifty-two of the progeny of the New Zealand-bred pacer Ribbonwood have paced a mile in 2min. 25sec. or better.

Some prominent punters have returned to Melbourne thoroughly convinced that it is easier to pick winners there than in Sydney. They have paid for their experience, too.

The Turnbull and Jones totalisator is to be used at Moorefield. There will be a machine in each enclosure, and New Zealand experiences point to a satisfactory result.—Sydney "Referee."

Australian racing clubs are asking the Government for greater concessions, as the totalisator has been forced upon them for revenue raising purposes, and their share is going to leave them worse off than if it had not been introduced.

Only for the decision to race in the rain on one day of their meeting (says the "Referee"), the Australian Jockey Club would have experienced one of the most profitable autumn meetings ever held at Randwick. Even with one day almost lost, the attendance aggregated about 141,000; and when



THE FINISH OF THE HUTT HANDICAP (ONE MILE) ON THE CONCLUDING DAY OF THE WELLINGTON RACING CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.—HELTAP (W. Price) scores a convincing win from GOLDEN GRAFTON (C. Price).

Trotting has never had such a good advertisement in Auckland as during the present season. It is catching on stronger than ever. Visitors got away with seven out of sixteen races at the recent meeting, and the lion's share of the stake money. They made the meeting very interesting with newcomers to the ranks.

Styrax, when previously nominated and tried for steeplechasing had not done any schooling to fit him for the business, but now figures in the Great Northern Steeplechase, and if not on the down grade may pay his way over country.

Forty years ago E. J. Rae rode his first steeplechase at Wanganui, and informed the writer that it was his intention to have gone there for the coming meeting, to celebrate the anniversary, but for the uncertainty of getting rail conveniences for his horses.

After the success of the Auckland Trotting Club's recent meeting, might we suggest that it would be well to race on Wednesday and Thursdays or on Fridays and Saturdays in future, to get the business over promptly. Such a plan would be much appreciated by visitors and by local and provincial owners and trainers, too. Two-day meetings should be got over on days following each other.

going as long as was wanted of her. It was very galling to the accomplished Auckland horseman, when riding back to the paddock after his mount, with her big weight, was beaten in the North Island Challenge Stakes, to hear a number of men hurling derisive insults at him.

Morecambe, who had had plenty of experience beforehand, and who would undoubtedly have beaten El Gallo in the Great Northern Steeplechase two years ago when Mr. Ralph's gelding was a green one at the cross-country game, but nevertheless won through the breaking down of the Hon. J. D. Ormond's gelding, is again in commission, and figures in both the Great Northern jumping events.

The Fortune Hunter, with his Sydney Cup win fresh in the minds of buyers, did not get beyond 600gns. when offered at auction at Randwick. If he had gone into the ring the day following that success he would have touched a much higher figure, says "Pilot," but his two subsequent failures in w.f.a. races depreciated his value. For a long time past Mr. J. A. Mayo has expressed himself anxious to drop out of racing, but presumably failure to dispose of The Fortune Hunter will keep him in the game a little longer.

the war is over and the crowds larger than ever, the paddock and leger are likely to be uncomfortably congested on big days.

At Randwick, as usual, discontented backers discovered numerous supposed non-triers, but then there are racegoers who will allege almost anything sooner than admit their judgment could be at fault. As Randwick is about the only course in Sydney where all the prizes are valuable, says "Pilot," it would be safe to bet that non-triers are comparatively few in the minor events.

Writing on the form shown at the A.J.C. autumn meeting, the "Australasian" has the following:—It cannot be said that the horses running at the A.J.C. autumn meeting were a good lot. Thrice stood out beyond all the other two-year-olds, and he may be very good, but it is safer to say that the opposition to him was weak. In the same way, Jack Rice, at Randwick, is a great hurdle racer, but he was a Triton among minnows. Possibly Old Mungindi, the steeplechaser, is going to turn out well. He, however, had weak opposition. In the spring, Kilboy, Wolaroi, and Sasanol were the best three-year-olds. They were all absent this time, and for the first time since the days of Paul Pry the best weight-for-age horse over a distance was Green Cap, a gelding.