

### THOROUGHBRED BREEDING IN FRANCE.

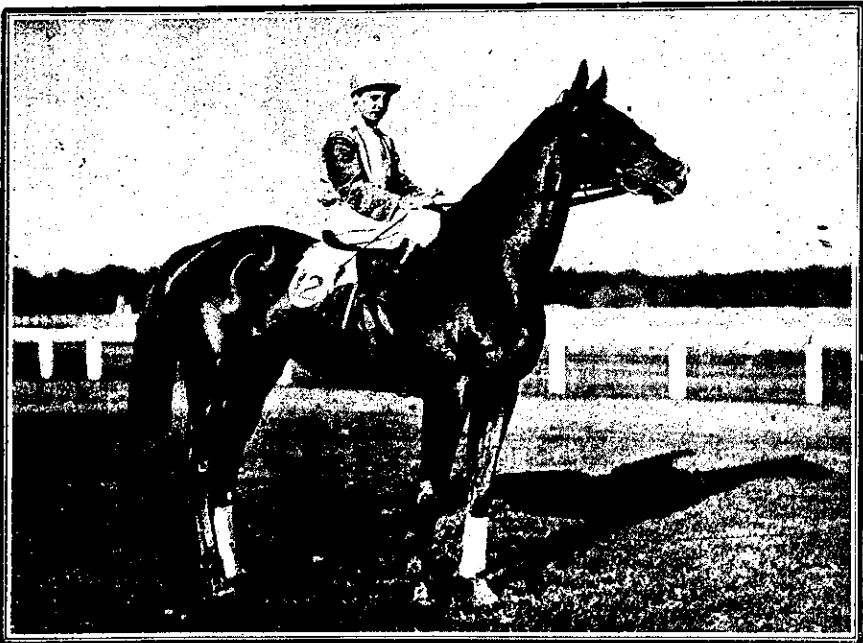
Mr. Allison writes:—"French breeders are up n arms about statements made by Eugene Leigh to the effect that French blood stock will be practically wiped out by the war, and that the thoroughbred mares commandeered for war service will have lost their identity, as they did in America during the Civil War. Now, Eugene Leigh may be a capable trainer, but as regards breeding he has no pretensions to knowledge. The 'French Stud Book' has always been kept scrupulously pure to the 'English Stud Book,' and in France they have been vastly more careful than we have during the war not to let the stock be depleted by exportation. The decrease of the foal returns in France has been anything but serious, for whereas in 1913 there were 1911 registered, and in 1914 there were 1820, there were 1709 in 1915, which, in the circumstances, is

being done full justice to. Since August 1, 1914, there has not been exported from France a single covering stallion less than ten years old, and no brood mare has been exported, except by a special temporary permit, for service in this country, and return within the year. The French studs are thus really intact, though we can all imagine the trouble the unfortunate breeders have had to face."

The pedigree of Sir Fisher, the Wanganui Century Hurdles winner, reads as follows:—By Maniapoto, son of Soult and Lady Fisher, dam Dear Dolly, half-sister to Solo, Simplex and Sonica, by Brigadier, son of Musket and Pungawerewere, dam Dolly, by Randwick, son of Barbarian, brother to The Barb (champ on racehorse of his day in Australia), dam Locket, daughter of Sir Charles, a descendant of the same family as Cap-a-pie. Sir Fisher was bred near Wanganui by Messrs. Webb Bros., of Brunswick.



TWO WELL-KNOWN NORTH ISLAND HORSEMEN, PHOTOGRAPHED ON DISEMBARKING FROM THE TROOPSHIP AT DUNEDIN, AFTER TAKING PART IN THE SOMME BATTLE—H. W. CLARK (on left) and WALLACE D. YOUNG.



Mr. A. D. Webster's ch g HYLATUS, 4yrs., by Hymettus—Mandola. Con Reed in saddle.

an unappreciable difference. Moreover, such bloodstock as has been taken for army purposes consisted either of geldings or others of little value; but, in any case, their identification papers went with them, and will always be available, so that there can never be any trouble about their pedigrees in future, if these are ever wanted. I cannot but think that our French friends are somewhat unduly upset over Eugene Leigh's pessimistic report. Naturally, as a trainer, he had no use for France in the days of storm and stress, and he may well have thought that because there was no racing to speak of there were no horses to train. A continuance of present conditions would be disastrous to horse breeding in France as well as in England; but France has set an example to the world, both at the front and in the maintenance of her great industries under unexampled difficulties. Of those industries horse breeding is one of the most important, and I am glad to be able to show that the fountain-head of it, the thoroughbred, is still

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Trainers and other watchers of the work at Randwick are feeling some anxiety about the future of being able to time gallops at headquarters (says a Sydney writer). The totalisator in course of erection on the flat bids fair to obstruct the view of a large section of the course from any point of vantage near the winning post, while those who witness the gallops from the centre of the course are not likely to be able to see the finishing point when the building is completed. The structure is being set partly underground to preserve

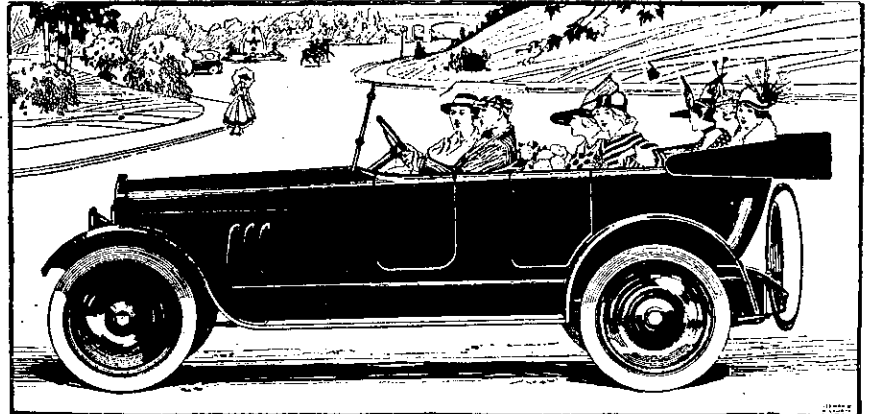
the view of occupants of the stands on race days, but from the progress already made it is obvious that it will change the whole system of timing gallops during training operations. Two alternative schemes for overcoming the difficulty present themselves. One is to provide a small look-out on the top of the totalisator house, from which the whole course can be seen, and the other is to erect a temporary winning post away from the building. The latter, however, would necessitate the changing of the intermediate posts on the training tracks.

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