

Red Ribbon's showing in the Auckland Cup was fully anticipated by the writer, and for the daughter of Elevation to have met Fiery Cross when the latter was at the very top of his form was indeed unfortunate for Mr. Dorset, who, however, was compensated in some degree for his loss of the Cup when later in the afternoon Sir Solo, a former Auckland Cup winner, accounted for the Pousonby Hurdles. The Masterton owner is singularly successful in his perambulations to Auckland, where he invariably returns with some of the valuable spoils. By the way, Mr. Dorset was drawn in the ballot and goes into camp shortly.

Friends of Mr. W. J. Phillips, the Sandon sheep-farmer, were pleased to see Nobleman winning the Manawatu Cup for him this week, the success being very popularly received. The Sir Laddo gelding has been a capital stake earner for Mr. Phillips, and being only a five-year-old many more wins should come his way. Nobleman is trained at Bulls by J. Coyle, a brother of the handicapper of that name.

Master Moutoa, who was a big outsider on the totalisator for the Manawatu Cup, finished third in that event. The race was run in record time, viz., 2min. 32.5sec., which proves that the Sarto gelding is not quite so bad as he is made out to be in some quarters. The bay galloper should pick up a decent handicap before the present season draws to a close.

Mill Queen (Treadmill—Fire Queen), owned by Mrs. S. H. Ames, widow of the late Mr. "Joe" Ames, accounted for the Trial Plate at Awapuni this week, the seven furlongs being left behind in 1min. 29sec., a capital performance for a maiden with 7.10 on her back. The three-year-old should bring some grist to Joe Ayres' Trentham stable during the next few months, as she is more than useful.

A. Atwood, the Feilding trainer, who goes into camp shortly, had a nice cut of a galloper in Vacuum at Awapuni. The black four-year-old gelding is a decent sort, and should soon be carrying his native owner's colours with some success.

What a good horse Colorado is. In carrying 11.3 to victory in the Tokomaru Hurdles at Awapuni on Thursday last Mr. J. Bull's capable jumper put up a sterling performance. The bay gelding is one of our best hurdlers in training just now, and later on it would occasion no surprise to find the son of Frisco figuring amongst National winners. He is being trained by J. Morris at Marton Junction, this mentor being noted for the splendid condition in which he turns out jumpers. Colorado was ridden by A. McDonald, whose horsemanship is always of a high order.

Mr. E. Short, the "Parorangi" sportsman, scored a double success with Hupana (Advance—Tahua) at the Manawatu meeting this week. The four-year-old mare, who was a hot favourite on both occasions, scored decisively in each instance.

Mr. R. E. Harley's starting at New Plymouth on Boxing Day was of a creditable standard. There were no delays at the post, which fact is always an important consideration with racegoers. It naturally follows that Mr. Harley's fame as a capable starter is spreading, for he was recently appointed to despatch the fields for the Gisborne Racing Club, while many other clubs are making arrangements to secure his services.

Bonnie Maid (Boniform—Happy Ma'd), owned by a well-known local medico and M.P., is coming on nicely under J. Ayres' guidance at Trentham. The three-year-old filly is built on galloping lines, and the future should find her occupying a fair position amongst winning horses.

Risingham (Rokeby—Rose Red), owned by the well-known sportsman who races as Lance Wood, and who lately attained to Cabinet rank in the National Government, was a runner in the Juvenile Handicap at the Manawatu meeting, but failed to get a place. The two-year-old is a good sort, however, and later on should carry his popular owner's colours with some success.

Owners and trainers should not overlook the fact that nominations for all events at the Foxton Racing Club's annual meeting close with the secretary, Mr. Endell Wanklyn, at Foxton at 9 p.m. on Friday next, January 4. The weights are due on the following Wednesday. The club are sparing no pains with a view to making their one-day gathering the greatest success possible.

Chimera, owned by Mr. C. F. Vallance, the genial president of the Masterton Racing Club, again got amongst the winners this week by appropriating the Juvenile Handicap

at the Manawatu meeting on Boxing Day after a strenuous set-to with Astrophel, the latter being defeated by a very narrow margin. Chimera is a promising sort, and will be heard of again later on.

Quinn's Post, owned by Mr. "Eddy" Trevor, a well-known contractor of Palmerston North, got his name on the winning list at the Manawatu meeting on Wednesday. The four-year-old, who was a source of disappointment to T. Wilson, gives the impression that he will yet make good on the racecourses after many failures. Quinn's Post is fairly well bred, being by Field Battery from Inamorata.

Visitors to the New Plymouth races this week noticed with some concern the absence of a totalisator board announcing (in writing) the various dividends paid out. Certainly the club have a fine jockey and totalisator hoist on the outside tracks which is discernible all over the place, but what one wants to see is a notice board containing all the dividends paid out. For instance, a person may be having lunch and miss a race, and would in the circumstances find it somewhat difficult to obtain the correct position. It is to be hoped that the club will provide the long-felt want by the time the Cup meeting comes round in February next.

Mr. T. C. Gormley, of the Egmont Hotel, Hawera, and Mr. Kimbell, manager of the Bank of Australasia at Hawera, both of whom have worked hard in patriotic matters, have set themselves out to collect £5000 for a permanent soldiers' club in Hawera. Many offers of help have already been received, and a musical comedy company has been formed for the purpose of giving entertainments in aid of the fund. Knowing the two gentlemen's pertinacity in these matters, there is every prospect of the proposal becoming an accomplished fact.

The well-known local sporting enthusiast Mr. H. Martindale has received information from the Defence Minister that his brother, J. Martindale, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry on the field of action in France.

CANTERBURY.

Success of Riccarton-trained Horses on Boxing Day—Fiery Cross' Auckland Cup Victory—Kilrea Meets With Mishap at Wingatui—Quickshot Destroyed as Result of Injuries Received Through Fall—A Deserving Win.

CHRISTCHURCH, Friday.

Riccarton-trained horses had a very good innings at the various racing centres on Boxing Day. Fiery Cross had got through such a genuine preparation that his victory in the Auckland Cup came as no surprise, but the price he paid did. No horse in the Dominion has done such a lot of hard work as has the son of Glenapp. Even after his exertions at the New Zealand Cup meeting he was kept right up to the collar, and his trainer is entitled to every credit for the manner in which he got the gelding to the post. It is understood that his owner and his many West Coast friends had a good win over Fiery Cross' success.

Biplane is still in light work, but it will be some time before he is ready to do much. Mason has several others in work, but they are not a promising team.

The Riccarton tracks are almost deserted at present, and are likely to remain so till the return of the horses now in other racing centres.

Kilrea was galloped on when contesting the Federal Handicap at Wingatui, one of her tendons being badly cut. In all probability the daughter of Kilbroney will be retired to the stud.

Riccarton-trained horses were very successful at the Reefton meeting, half of the events, including the Cup, coming their way.

Prior to the Dunedin meeting, Rorke's Drift got cut about when rolling in his box. Under the circumstances he did really well to defeat all but Margerine in the Otago Handicap.

When contesting the Hurdle Race at Wingatui, Quickshot fell and received such severe injuries as to necessitate her destruction. Fortunately her rider (McMullan) got off with a few bruises.

The English-bred mare Henriette, who won the Midland Welter Handicap at Reefton, had not previously figured as a winner though she had been placed three times. She is the first winner in the colours of Mr. A. W. Rutherford, Junior, this season after 11 placed performances by various members of his team.

SOUTHLAND.

Excellent Nominations for the Wyndham R.C. Meeting—Large Entries for the Southland R.C. Summer Meeting—Sir George Clifford to be Represented—Burrangong and Mohawk Expected to Run Prominently—Kilkee Purchased by a Southland Sportsman—Kauwhero's Prospects at Wingatui—Glensponse's Capabilities as a Hurdler—Hot Air Expected to Strike Form.

INVERCARGILL, December 26.

Railway restrictions do not appear to have handicapped the Wyndham R.C.'s annual meeting on January 1, as far as nominations are concerned. Entries to the number of 110 have been received for seven events, as compared with 100 for eight events last season.

The ex-North Islander Awahou became somewhat dull and his old trouble of bleeding threatened to recur last week, consequently J. Boyd treated him to a mild dose of physic and eased him up for a few days. He is very well at present and should be heard from next week provided all goes well in the meantime.

The Southland R.C.'s summer meeting has attracted large entries, all things considered, and the Invercargill Cup has not been neglected by owners with a nomination display of eighteen well-known horses. It is interesting to note that J. McCombe has named Subterfuge as an entrant for the big money.

The Vice-Admiral Lady Talbot gelding, Calibre—Walda filly, and the Rorke's Drift—Lady Talbot colt have been handled and ridden during the past week. The son of Vice-Admiral gave some trouble at first, but eventually settled down like a sensible horse. Rorke's Drift's son, on the other hand, objected to be educated at all, and created an unusual amount of fuss about the matter. He is now an inmate of G. McLean's stable. H. G. Coker has the Calibre—Walda filly in hand, while P. T. Hogan has charge of Vice-Admiral's son.

As Brambletye has been engaged in the Invercargill Cup and Southland R.C. Handicap at the local meeting, while accommodation has been engaged for the daughter of Treadmill and Bonnie Brae, it may be taken for granted that Sir George Clifford is going to be represented in Southland for the first time next week.

The equine hero of last season's Invercargill Cup, Golden King, has been running out for some time past, but is to be taken up again as soon as the New Year fixtures are disposed of.

Two horses expected to race prominently at the Wyndham or Invercargill meetings are Burrangong and Mohawk, both of whom looked to be short of work when raced at the Winton J.C. fixture last month. Burrangong, who is a full-brother to Mystified and Mysteriarch, is trained in company with Mohawk at Riccarton under the keen eye of A. D. McIvor. Another smart galloper from the same R'verton stable, Special Order, may trouble the best of them at the Southland R.C. meeting.

The Winton Stakes winner, Mussulman, was to have been tried out in more select company at the Southland R.C. meeting, but his owner missed the closing of nominations by some hours, and the son of Pallas will now have to be held in reserve for the Wairoa J.C.'s gathering, entries for which are due next week.

The Kilbroney—Latchet gelding Kilkee, who is reported to have been galloping well at Riccarton during the past few weeks, has been purchased by a Southland sportsman and is expected to carry the colours also worn by Giralda for the first time at Wyndham. If the Kilbroney gelding has been doing well at Riccarton he should have no difficulty in winning a race here in the near future. He is to join the string commanded by H. G. Coker, who, by the way, is gathering a new team round him after losing Kauwhero, Aycliffe and Muzzle.

An accident happened to Rorke's Drift the other day, the Calibre gelding running a piece of stray wood into his digestive organs, but the effects are not expected to be a serious handicap to the Messrs. Price's gelding.

In the meantime, Kauwhero and Aycliffe are to race at Wingatui, with the North Otago J.C. meeting to follow, but provided the former is not harshly treated in the Invercargill Cup he may be brought back from the D.J.C. to play his part in the most important race of the season as far as the home province is concerned. Should Kauwhero race at the local track, instead of competing at Oamaru, he will carry a considerable

amount of support in the Invercargill Cup, as hundreds of people have got it into their heads that he is distinctly removed from the moderate class over a distance like a mile and a quarter. He certainly encouraged his admirers at Winton in the belief that he can gallop over a distance of ground.

The colt foal by Solferino from Eager Eyes is doing well and has been greatly admired. The American mare is not to be mated this season, but will probably join the harem of one of the Messrs. Reid's North Otago sires next year.

The White King is reported from Dunedin to be in good shape, hence he will command a very strong following when he is stripped for the sprint events at the S.R.C.'s summer gathering next week.

Glensponse is to be raced in the sprint events at the S.R.C.'s fixture, and when the summer meetings conclude he will probably be given a turn at the jumping game. He jumped fairly well for a novice when tried out over the schooling hurdles last season.

The uncertain Redshire has been galloping in an encouraging manner of late, and may secure a stake for P. T. Hogan's stable at New Year time.

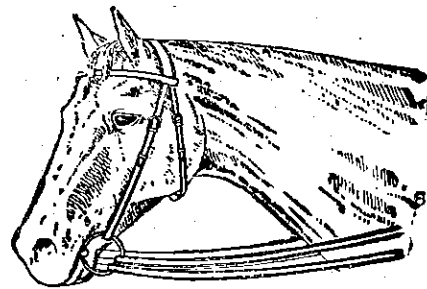
Notwithstanding reports from Riccarton to the effect that Marc Antony is far from at his best yet, the black horse has been engaged at the Wyndham and S.R.C. meetings.

Jock failed badly at Winton after showing winning form at the Gore R.C. spring meeting, but his followers have not lost faith in him and he is expected to strip well at Invercargill.

Highwater has been on the shelf for some time past, and it is now given out that she will not be raced until the autumn fixtures come round. The daughter of Martan is very useful when at her best.

Hot Air raced indifferently at Winton, but may redeem her reputation within a few days of these notes appearing in print. The All Red mare is a smart galloper, and will occasion great surprise in well-informed quarters if she should fail to strike form at an early date.

Some horses of chestnut colour were conspicuous in their races on Boxing Day at Ellerslie. Lord Kenilworth opened the proceedings by winning the Shortland Plate. The Auckland Cup went to Fiery Cross, and Red Ribbon, the only other chestnut in the race, ran second. The Railway Handicap resulted in a dead-heat between the chestnuts King Lupin and Hymestra, and the Christmas Handicap, the last event of the day, fell to the English horse Polydamon, also of the chestnut colour. Lord Kenilworth, the dead-heaters King Lupin and Hymestra and Polydamon are entire, Fiery Cross a gelding.



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