

RACING NEWS

RACING FIXTURES, 1918.

May 9—Ashburton County R.C.
 May 14, 15—Marlborough R.C.
 May 23, 25—Wanganui J.C.
 June 1, 3—Dunedin J.C.
 June 1, 3—Auckland R.C.
 June 3 & 4—Otaki Maori R.C. Autumn.
 June 13, 15—Gisborne R.C.
 June 21, 22—Napier Park R.C.
 June 29—Hawke's Bay J.C.
 July 10, 13—Wellington R.C.
 July 25—South Canterbury H.C.

EVENTS REQUIRING ATTENTION.

Friday, May 10.
 Weights first day Wanganui J.C. winter, on or about.
 Acceptances G.N. Hurdles, G.N. Steeplechase and Cornwall Handicap, Auckland R.C. winter, at 9 p.m.
 Nominations minor events Auckland R.C. winter, at 9 p.m.

Thursday, May 16.
 Handicaps Otaki Maori R.C. winter.

Monday, May 20.
 Acceptances first day Otaki Maori R.C. winter, at 8.30 p.m.
 Acceptances first day Wanganui J.C. winter, by 9.30 p.m.
 Handicaps for Maiden Steeplechase, Jervois Handicap, Hunt Club Hurdles and Members' Handicap.

Wednesday, May 22.
 Nominations Gisborne R.C. steeplechase meeting, at 9 p.m.

Thursday, May 23.
 Handicaps second day Wanganui J.C. winter, at 8.30 p.m.

Friday, May 24.
 Acceptances second day Wanganui J.C. winter, at noon.
 Acceptances Maiden Steeplechase, Jervois Handicap, Hunt Club Hurdles and Members' Handicap, Auckland R.C. winter, by 9 p.m.
 Final payments G.N. Hurdles, G.N. Steeplechase and Cornwall Handicap, by 9 p.m.

Wednesday, May 29.
 Handicaps first day Gisborne R.C. steeplechase meeting.

Saturday, June 1.
 Handicaps second day Auckland R.C. winter, at 8 p.m.
 Acceptances second day Auckland R.C. winter, by 9 p.m.

Friday, June 7.
 Acceptances first day Gisborne R.C. steeplechase meeting, at 9 p.m.

Thursday, June 13.
 Weights second day Gisborne steeplechase meeting, at 8 p.m.
 Acceptances second day Gisborne steeplechase meeting, at 9.30 p.m.

THE WINTER MEETINGS.

The 1917-18 racing season is rapidly drawing to a close, the winter meetings being the only remaining fixtures that have yet to receive attention from turf lovers. A large number of horses have already gone into retirement for the winter months, principally flat racers, included in which number are several of our leading performers in classic events, Mr. T. H. Lowry's formidable team being among those whose activities for the present season are at an end. On the other hand, operations among the jumping division are becoming more general throughout the Dominion, particularly in the North Island, where the Wanganui, Auckland, Otaki, Gisborne, Napier Park, Hawke's Bay and Hawke's Bay Hunt, and Wellington winter gatherings have yet to come up for decision. Though flat racing at the meetings in question is of a limited character, there are plenty of remunerative stakes on offer in this department, mostly at welter weights, before the close of the season. The Otaki Maori Racing Club's meeting in particular, which is to be held on June 3 and 4, offers special inducements to owners and trainers of flat racers, and, judging by the large nomination list received on Monday evening for this popular fixture there is every prospect of big fields being engaged at next month's fixture at Otaki. The other meetings mentioned above cater more particularly for hurdle horses and cross-country performers, a large number of whom are in training in various parts of the Dominion with a view to capturing some of the valuable stakes offered by the different clubs. The Wanganui Jockey Club will lead off the winter racing programme, Thursday and Saturday, May 23 and 25, being the dates on which this meeting will take place. The excellence of the nominations received for the 14 events to be decided at this eagerly-looked forward to fixture augurs well for its success, and Mr. H. Coyle's handicaps for the first day, which are due on Friday next (May 10) are

being awaited with intense interest in sporting circles. The Century Hurdles and the Wanganui Steeplechase, with an entry of 22 horses in each, occupy premier position with followers of the turf, and the representative character of the fields in both events, combined with the fact that many of the candidates have recent form to recommend them, make the big Wanganui double of general interest throughout the Dominion.

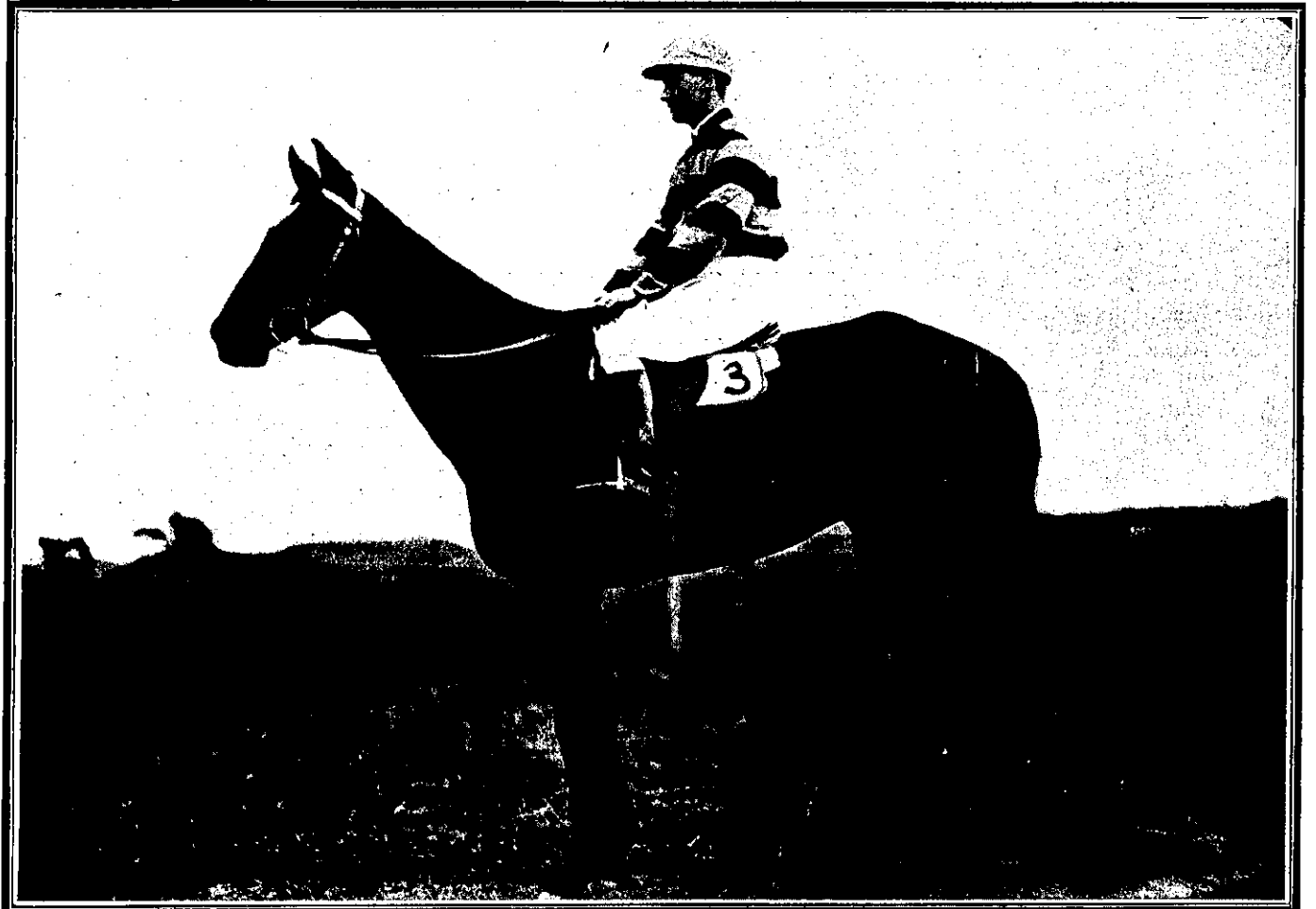
Following upon the Wanganui Jockey Club's winter meeting comes the Auckland Racing Club's Great Northern carnival, which is to be held at Ellerslie on June 1 and 3. Mr. F. Macmanemin has declared his handicaps for the principal events to be run on the opening day, viz., the Great Northern Hurdles, Great Northern Steeplechase and the Cornwall Handicap, and the publication of same has awakened wide interest in the coming fixture. The prospects of the various contenders for Great Northern Hurdle and Steeplechase honours are being carefully weighed by enthusiasts, and a review of the weights, which is given on another page, may prove helpful to early backers.

Cup, of 500sovs (one mile and a quarter) and the Huia Handicap, of 300sovs (one mile and 55 yards) will claim the attention of many of the leading handicap horses from the surrounding districts.

The Gisborne Racing Club's steeplechase meeting, to be held on June 13 and 15, promises to be accorded a wide measure of patronage from owners, the fact of four cross-country events and two hurdle races being included in the excellent programme making it an excellent jumping attraction. Following close upon the Gisborne meeting, is the Napier Park Racing Club's winter gathering, to be held on June 21 and 22, at which several well-endowed hurdle and steeplechase events will prove a strong inducement to outside owners to visit Napier next month.

Two important jumping fixtures to be held at Hastings are the Hawke's Bay Hunt Club's annual and the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's winter meetings, which take place respectively on June 28 and 29. The fact of these two gatherings being held a week after the Napier Park meeting will influence many visiting trainers to remain in Hawke's Bay until the end of the four days' winter rac-

to horse breeding. It is the crucial test, and the only one by which breeders are able to arrive at a definite conclusion as regards the value of their stock. Without it there would be neither the means nor the inclination to carry on a business which has world-wide ramifications. It is unfortunate that a great many people only look upon racing as an amusement or a 'bean feast,' and profess to be shocked because of the gambling elements associated with it. These, however, are merely abstract phases, and what I should like to point out is the way in which the horse breeding interest, so vital to the country, has been built up. The fact that cavalry has already done such admirable work in this war effectually disposes of the theory advanced by Mr. H. G. Wells that horses would be no use in modern or future warfare. I have previously mentioned that this is a dangerous fallacy, and were it acted upon we should possibly find ourselves in a desperate and unenviable position one of these days. If it had not been for hunting and racing there would have been a deplorable shortage of suitable horses on which to mount our cavalry when war broke out. In



A VETERAN STEEPLCHASER WHO MADE HIS REAPPEARANCE AT THE HAWKE'S BAY J.C.'S AUTUMN MEETING AT HASTINGS—Mr. E. J. White's br g BRAEBURN, aged, by Sir Laddo—Tuhirangi, who contested the hurdle events at the Hawke's Bay meeting, acting as runner-up to Pursefiller in the Karamu Hurdles (two miles) on the concluding day. J. Deery in saddle. BRAEBURN claims engagements in the steeplechase events to be decided at the Wanganui and Auckland winter meetings.

Southern owners will be principally concerned next month with the Dunedin Jockey Club's winter carnival, which will take place on the same days as the Great Northern meeting, viz., June 1 and 3. The big event at this gathering will be the Otago Steeplechase, of 500sovs (about three miles), to be run on the opening day, while the Wingatui Steeplechase, of 350sovs (two miles and a-half), will form the principal attraction on the second day. Two hurdle races and two hack steeplechases are also included on the two days' programme at Wingatui, and the gathering promises to result in another record being entered up in the annals of this progressive South Island club.

The Otaki Maori Racing Club will hold their winter gathering on Monday and Tuesday, June 3 and 4, and the meeting will undoubtedly be largely availed of by North Island stables, 12 of the 14 events being for flat racers, the remaining two races being hack steeplechases. It is safe to venture the opinion that the hack class will be strongly represented at Otaki, while the bigger events, which include the Ruakawa

ing carnival, which offers every inducement to outside stables to be represented at next month's attractions at the Bay.

The Wellington Racing Club is arranging a particularly attractive programme for their winter meeting, which takes place on July 10 and 13, and will mark the close of the 1917-18 racing season in New Zealand.

EVOLUTION OF THE THOROUGHBRED.

"I wonder if those people who, through ignorance or prejudice, or perhaps both, are always opposing racing are aware that it has taken centuries of hard work, intelligent thought, and a good deal of scientific application to bring the British thoroughbred, of which we are so justifiably proud, to its present state of perfection" (says "Bayardo," in "Reynold's Weekly"). "In light horse breeding Great Britain is supreme, and this is probably the only national industry in which we have no serious rivals. Racing is simply incidental

the circumstances, it is incredible that anybody can be so foolish as to advocate the destruction of the source from which our splendid breed of horses is obtained. No British Government so far has done much to encourage the breeding of thoroughbred horses, even with a view to ensuring an adequate number of animals suitable for military purposes. This has practically been left to private enterprise. It would be a poor return for what breeders have done if any Government, through lack of foresight, sought to deprive the country of the inestimable benefits of a system which has proved a national asset. That the entire suspension of racing would strike a deadly blow at its existence is a fact that ought to be grasped by anybody of intelligence, and it is to be hoped that the publicity of so many striking facts since the War Cabinet took its ill-advised action will have enlightened thousands of people and brought home to them the necessity in the interests of the United Kingdom, of preserving both breeding and racing, which are almost synonymous terms."