



RACING NEWS

RACING FIXTURES, 1918.

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 28, 29—Hawke's Bay J.C.
 July 10, 13—Wellington R.C.
 July 25—South Canterbury H.C.

EVENTS REQUIRING ATTENTION.

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.

RACING OPPORTUNITIES IN WAR TIME.

The announcement to the effect that the well-known Masterton sportsman, Mr. W. R. Kemball, will in all probability take a team of horses across to Australia in the spring furnishes further recognition of the fact that many owners in the Dominion are becoming more and more impressed with the opportunities offered to New Zealand horses to win substantial stakes in the Commonwealth. It is not altogether the high stakes which are tempting New Zealanders to plan a trip to Australia with their racers, but the novelty of seeing one's colours ranged alongside those carried by well known performers on the Australian turf has a strong fascination for the more ambitious owner. Although the reduction of race days in New Zealand has not, so far as we are aware, made any material difference to New Zealand's war efforts, turf enthusiasts having demonstrated that their patriotism is quite equal to that of any other section of the community, it may have caused several local owners to look further afield for additional opportunities of racing their leading thoroughbreds in important weight-for-age events. It must be said, however, that the racing clubs in New Zealand have met the position in regard to curtailed race days in a commendable spirit, an increase in stakes having been decided upon in the majority of instances. Taken collectively the stakes on offer for leading events run in the Dominion are better than in pre-war times, but then it must not be forgotten that consequent upon there being fewer races the fields are almost invariably larger. Any further restriction of racing would undoubtedly create a difficult problem for a number of clubs, as the fields for some events are quite large enough already, especially during the period of the season when there are few meetings. Until the long looked for peace comes, owners will have to remain content with the restricted opportunities to win races, which, in most cases, are becoming correspondingly difficult, and it is, therefore, a matter for gratification to note that quite a number of clubs have increased many of their events in value since the curtailment of racing took place. Especially is an increase in stake monies desirable in the case of many hack events, in which the entries are nearly always large, for seldom do the owners of these horses secure a win, and certainly a good stake is warranted in such circumstances.

In carrying on their operations during the war the various clubs are doing far more good than would have been the case had their meetings been suspended, as not only are they contributing a very substantial sum in revenue to the Government, but are fulfilling the expressed wish of a great number of supporters of the turf at present on active service, many being owners who have left their horses in charge of their trainers or friends to be raced and cared for during their absence abroad with the Expeditionary Forces. Racing in the Dominion has maintained its popularity in a remarkable manner during the past year or so, providing much needed recreation for thousands at a time when some respite from the worries and monotonous routine of every-day life is most necessary.

Racing owners are particularly well catered for by the clubs in New Zealand, and compared to a decade ago the stakes allotted for the various meetings are undoubtedly much more attractive, which, considering the abnormal period, is distinctly creditable to the clubs who are doing their best in this direction to keep the sport going until better conditions prevail. That owners should desire to cross the Tasman Sea with their horses and attempt to capture some

MARTON JOCKEY CLUB.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual general meeting of the Marton Jockey Club was held on Tuesday evening at the Coronation Hall, Marton, in the presence of a representative attendance. The club are to be congratulated on the success of the year's operations, the balance sheet disclosing a bank balance of £588 4s. 6d. for the period ended March 31, 1918. In presenting the committee's report, the chairman, Mr. R. E. Beckett, stated that notwithstanding the War Regulations, which curtailed one-third of the racing in New Zealand, the result had been most gratifying both from a pecuniary and a racing standpoint. After carefully considering the position, the committee decided to hold two meetings as heretofore, deleting the second day's racing on January 2. The wisdom of their decision was exemplified by the splendid nominations and acceptances for both meetings, resulting in very large attendances on both occasions and considerable increase in totalisator returns. During the year, over £600 has been expended on necessary improvements, and for the first time for a great many years the club were enabled to show

bookmakers play into the hands of the totalisator advocates by their attitude towards the public."

TURF ETHICS.

HIGH ALTITUDE SOUGHT.

The question whether the Manawatu Racing Club will stand to its decision to refuse further nominations from Greenwood, his trainer (Mason) and of his horse, Biplane, need not lead to much cudgelling of brains (remarks "Hotspur," in the Sydney "Sportsman"). If a decision such as this was adhered to, and the precedent thereby established was followed by many racing clubs, there would be consternation amongst the horse owning and training fraternity, because it would be superfluous in Australia nowadays. Many men who loomed largely on the turf in days gone by reckoned eleventh hour scratching as quite a masterpiece of strategy, indeed such may be within the memory of the present day generation of racegoers. To remain within the law, according to racing rules, was considered quite a proper thing, and "the public be damned" was recognised as a legitimate attitude for the horse owner to assume towards those punters who may have



UKRAINE AND THE CENTRAL POWERS.—THE PEACE TERMS SIGNED. At a meeting on the night of February 9 the Ukraine signed the German peace terms. Our illustration shows the signatories seated round the table: Count Czernin, M. Von Kuhlmann, M. Radoslavof, Allaat Pasha, General Hoffman, M. Lewytsky, one of the Ukraine delegates.

of the rich stakes offering in Australia is in no way a reflection upon the status of racing in the Dominion, and there is certainly no reason why these sportsmen should not endeavour to win fresh laurels for New Zealand on the racecourses of Australia. During the season now closing, Biplane and Desert Gold, by their illustrious deeds on the principal racecourses in the Commonwealth, gave the Dominion a splendid advertisement throughout that continent, and at the same time helped indirectly in swelling the patriotic funds of both countries. Apart from the patriotic aspect, every encouragement should be given in fostering the interests of racing in Australia and New Zealand in the shape of exchange visits between the crack performers of both countries, and should these trips become of more frequent occurrence general appreciation will be expressed by turf enthusiasts at such a desirable state of affairs.

Wishful is reported to be taking to hurdle jumping all right, and Gladful, his stable companion, has also been doing nicely in his schooling work. The Kemball stable seems to be full of useful ones, and W. Hawthorn should have a good team in the spring. Wishful claims engagements at Wanganui and Otaki.

a credit balance at our bankers. This would, however, disappear when the levy was made for clubs whose racing was cut out owing to War Regulations and when certain amounts had been set aside for patriotic purposes.

UNDESIRABLE VICTORIAN BOOKMAKERS.

"We have in Victoria," says "Winning Post," in the "Weekly Times," "some of the finest bookmakers in the Commonwealth—men who do not allow their feelings to influence their conduct. On the other hand, unfortunately, we also have some of the worst bookmakers in the country, and this class is increasing in numbers to such an extent that it is questionable whether the V.R.C. committee is a little lax in admitting applicants to the register. The men referred to are always out to show backers a point. They regulate their prices mainly upon their own estimate of the person who inquires about a horse. They are particularly fond of betting with women, because they know next to nothing about making a wager. These, too, are the men who disburse abuse quicker than dividends among the persons who back winners with them. Unintentionally, but surely enough, these

had the audacity to anticipate the stable operations with the ring. Some names, more or less famous in turf annals, are those of men who subscribed to this doctrine, and acted upon it when it suited them to do so. Of course, all this has been altered since the war—and the last big meeting. The ethics of the turf, like the language of the turf, has appreciated considerably. The Manawatu stewards are to be commended upon insisting that the ethics of the turf be maintained at a high standard by the horse owning and training section of the community, so that the language of the turf, as given expression to by the punting section of the community, may not reach too high a standard. Both the ethics and the language should be duly balanced, and to so control matters that this should be effected would be indeed praiseworthy. It is one thing to have a mission in life, however, but a different thing to succeed in that mission. The Manawatu Club people may succeed, but we would not care to take too many tickets on them. If they do, we are not afraid that such a precedent will be followed in Australia. Australian horse owners or trainers would never think of indulging in eleventh hour scratching, well—not until the eleventh hour.