

RACING NEWS

WELLINGTON RACING CLUB.

The Wellington Racing Club have every reason to be satisfied with the season's operations, which testify to the increasing popularity of meetings at Trentham. During the 1916-17 season racing was conducted on ten days at Trentham, the spring and autumn fixtures being each limited to two days, while the summer and winter gatherings both were three-day meetings. The totalisator investments for the ten days amounted to £411,471 10s., an average per day of £41,147. During the 1917-18 season just closed only six days' racing took place at Trentham, a day having been taken off both the summer and winter meetings, while the autumn meeting was cut out altogether. Notwithstanding the loss of four days' racing, the splendid total of £278,922 10s. was invested on the machine during the six days, an average of £46,487 for each day, which is over £5000 per day better than the average recorded throughout the 1916-17 season.

THAMES JOCKEY CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Thames Jockey Club was held on Wednesday evening of last week. The annual report showed that the receipts from all sources for the year had been £2072 7s., and the expenditure £2144 19s. the sum of £685 being paid in stakes. The overdraft amounted to £2201 10s. 9d. at the commencement of the year, and at its close stood at £2274 2s. 10d. The racing taxes for the one day's racing last year amounted to £471 5s. 2. Through the curtailment of racing to one day a loss of £1297 9s. 10d. had been incurred as compared with the two days' racing the previous year. The committee had decided to alter the day of the next races to March 22, 1919, so as not to clash with other clubs offering superior attractions. The committee congratulated the club upon its sound position.

Officers were elected as follows:—President, Mr. A. Bruce; vice-president, Mr. W. Price; committee, Messrs. A. Bruce, Baker, Cornes, Rae, Adamson, and McCormick; judge, Mr. H. Lowe; handicapper, Mr. R. Wynyard; starter, Mr. W. Quarterman.

MASTERTON RACING CLUB.

A SUCCESSFUL SEASON.

The members of the Masterton Racing Club will hold their annual meeting on Wednesday next at Murray's Hall, Masterton, when the annual report and balance-sheet will be presented to members, while the election of officers will also take place. That the club has experienced a most successful year is apparent by the following report from the stewards, which is to be submitted to members by Messrs. A. W. Cave (patron) and C. F. Vallance (president):—"Your

stewards have great pleasure in laying before you the annual report and balance-sheet for the year ended 30th June, 1918. Your stewards are glad to report that they have been able to repay the sum of £1000 off the club's mortgage during the year. During the year the sum of £2490 was given in stakes. The revenue derived from the totalisator was £3517 4s. 1d. The sum of £1793 0s. 9d. has been paid in Government tax. Included in this sum is £833 1s. 6d. special war tax on dividends and £24 18s. for war tax on stakes. An amount of £199 13s. has been expended in top-dressing the plough track during the year. £100 10s. was donated to patriotic funds. The Farm Account shows a profit of £198 2s. 5d. for the year.

"It is with sincere regret that we have to report the loss of a valuable steward, in the late Mr. O. C. Cooper, who succumbed to injuries received in a motor car accident on July 10. The late Mr. Cooper had been steward for a considerable number of years, and his loss is a sad one for the club."

Who will be the one to be left out? This will be for the members to say. Those who have records to show for past services and their usefulness on these committees are generally well known to the members and the owners and trainers and visitors who receive attention at their hands. Some are constant attendants at the racecourse side, and are popular with the trainers and owners. The selection of three stewards from the five members nominated may result in much the keenest contest. Messrs. A. L. Raven and M. J. Lynch are in the field for the first time. Both are business men with some practical racing experience, and as owners have acquired knowledge useful to men whose judgment has so frequently to be exercised during a season's racing. Mr. Raven is secretary to the Breeders, Owners and Trainers' Association, which has a large membership, and has proved a live observant man. Mr. Lynch is conversant with the rules of racing and his legal training is an advantage. Sir Robert Lockhart, who has been

for special consideration. That even five clubs in New Zealand should find themselves in the position to need to ask for the sanction of the president or the powers that be to give a less sum than is netted from the machine may seem surprising to those who know what a lot of revenue is derived from other sources and how really successful practically all clubs have been in their racing experiences. Taumarunui and Waipa are really new clubs with their properties and improvements to be paid for, and the two other country clubs have for some time been making an uphill fight. The Takapuna Jockey Club has never from its inception lacked solid public patronage and plenty of support from owners in the way of nominations and acceptances, and the totalisator turnover from first to last has always been proportionately good. Compared with other clubs in the Dominion most Auckland clubs have taken a foremost place and are in an excellent position financially. Many would have expected the Takapuna Club to have been strong in that respect, also considering the long time it has been in existence, but with a lot of money now to be paid in interest on the cost of improvements and land purchased to enlarge the course, for which purpose a comparatively small amount had been saved out of profits, and with a fairly large indebtedness to be reduced and further improvements necessary and to be provided for, owners will have to be content with less in stakes than is netted from the machine, upon which stake giving has for a good many years been based. Many clubs have purchased land, made courses, built stands and with the money made out of their racing, have paid their way handsomely and have never had to ask for any concessions. Large memberships and energetic capable management, and the support of the public and horse owners has enabled them to forge ahead rapidly. The Takapuna Jockey Club will need to husband all resources and have all the good luck of the past in making fairly large profits, to pay off liabilities and bring its property more up to date and at the same time keep the stakes up to the requirements of the Rules of Racing.



A pair of bonny thoroughbred brood mares and their foals on Mr. J. B. Reid's estate at Oamaru—Imported ORANGE PIPPIN (on left) and CYRE, the dam of Kilboy.

A.R.C. ELECTION.

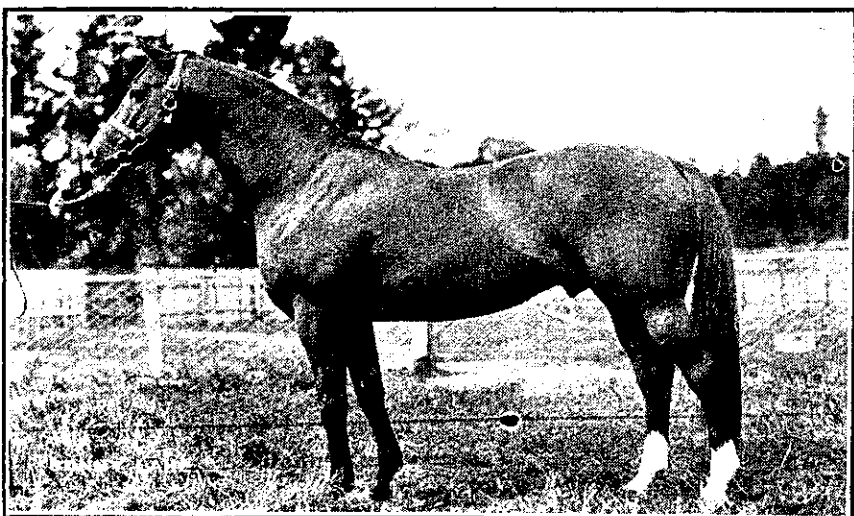
The candidature of a number more members than are required for the positions of stewards to the Auckland Racing Club and of one more than is wanted for the committee, will necessitate contested elections at the annual meeting of members on August 5. It is needless to say that if they all go to the "post," though it is rumoured that there may be one retirement before the day, plenty of interest will be infused into the business. Last week the names of the members nominated were published. There will not be any contests for the presidency and vice-presidency positions, for so many years well filled by the Hon. E. Mitchelson and Mr. T. H. Gorrie respectively, who are amongst the oldest members of the club. On the committee there are also some long-time members, and each of the half dozen nominated is a man of previous experience, some of them seeking re-election. Five of the number are to be elected.

nominated for the committee as well as for a steward's position, and Messrs. J. D. Jones and G. A. Wynyard have already acted as stewards of clubs and in various ways have been useful followers of the sport.

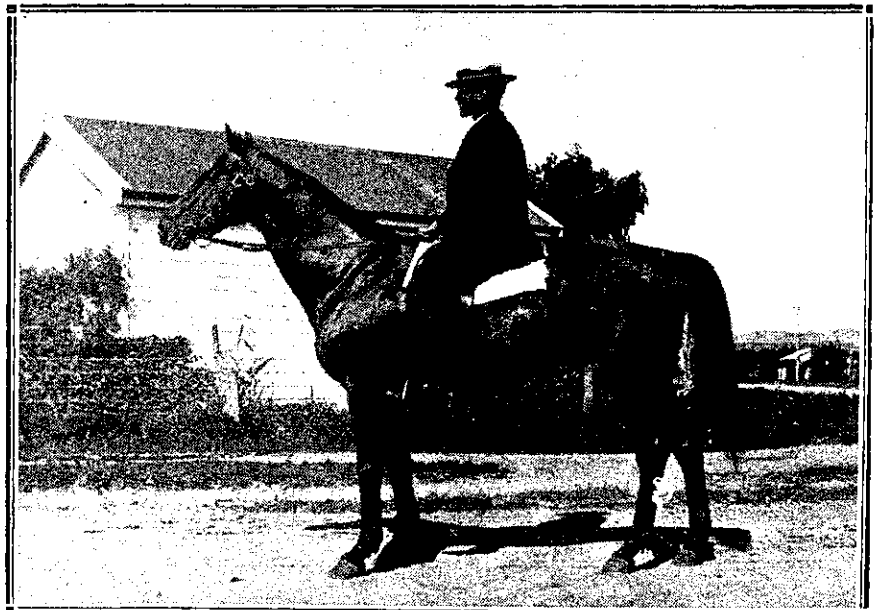
CLUBS AND THE MINIMUM STAKES.

At the recent conference of New Zealand racing clubs, five clubs sought to be relieved of the operation of the rule which requires that clubs must give in stakes a sum at least equal to the net amount derived from the totalisator in the previous year. The clubs that applied for and obtained exemption were the Takapuna Jockey Club, Taumarunui, Waipa, Opunake and Dannevirke Clubs, and each one was able to satisfy the powers that be that there were reasons

Mr. Hassall of Hawke's Bay, has secured a good horse to take the place of Merry Moment, the imported sire he lost recently. Kilboy, by Kilbroney—Cyre, by Cyrenian from Miss Delaval, by Seaton Delaval from Campania, should make a good substitute, as he is bred on the right lines, is a solid constitutioned horse, was an undoubted good two and three year old and a winner from six furlongs to two miles. Included in his winning achievements are the C.J.C. Autumn Handicap, A.J.C. Derby and Trentham Gold Cup, in which he beat Desert Gold at w.f.a.



The imported stallion SUNNY LAKE, by Sundridge—Pearl of the Loch, who is now at the service of breeders, being stationed at his owner's (Mr. J. B. Reid) place, Elderslie, Oamaru.



The stud horse CONQUEROR, who it is anticipated will be at the service of Gisborne breeders during the next few months.