



RACING NEWS

RACING FIXTURES, 1918.

Sept. 26—Geraldine R.C.
 Oct. 3—Kurow J.C.
 Oct. 11, 12—Dunedin J.C.
 Oct. 17, 18—Masterton R.C.
 Oct. 24, 25—Poverty Bay T.C.
 Oct. 26, 28—Wellington R.C.
 Oct. 26, 28—Gore R.C.
 Oct. 28—North Canterbury and Oxford J.C.
 Oct. 28—Waverley-Waitotara R.C.
 Nov. 2, 6—Avondale J.C.
 Nov. 4, 6, 9—Canterbury J.C.
 Nov. 9—Auckland R.C.
 Nov. 13, 14—Winton J.C.
 Nov. 20—Ashhurst-Pohangina R.C.

EVENTS REQUIRING ATTENTION.

Friday, September 27.

Nominations for all events (including entries for Trial Stakes) Masterton R.C. spring, at 5 p.m.

Wednesday, October 2.

Nominations Waverley-Waitotara R.C. annual, at 8 p.m.

Friday, October 4.

Nominations all events Poverty Bay T.C. spring, at 9 p.m.
 Handicaps first day Masterton R.C. spring, on or before.

Wednesday, October 9.

Handicaps Waverley-Waitotara R.C. annual (on or about).

Friday, October 11.

Nominations Avondale J.C. spring, by 5 p.m.
 Handicaps first day Poverty Bay T.C. spring, on or about.
 Acceptances first day Masterton R.C. spring, at 5 p.m.
 Final payments Avondale Stakes (1918) and Avondale Guineas (1918), by 5 p.m.

GORE RACING CLUB.

SPRING MEETING.

The Gore Racing Club have drawn up a particularly attractive two days' programme for their spring meeting, which will be decided on Saturday and Monday, October 26 and 28. The club have catered in a worthy manner for both racing and trotting owners, twelve events being devoted to the former and four to the latter, and a splendid response may safely be looked for from the ranks of both. The big event on the opening day will be the Waikaka Handicap, of 175sovs, one mile and a distance, and in addition to the many well-known handicap horses in the Southland province the event should attract a good number of thoroughbreds from other parts of the South Island. The opening day's sprint, the Stewards' Handicap, of 115sovs, six furlongs, is certain to be patronised by owners and trainers of eligible candidates, while a good entry is anticipated for the Wantwood Steeplechase, of 110sovs, two miles and a-half. Other racing events to be run on the first day are the District Hack Handicap, of 70sovs, six furlongs; Dominion Hack Handicap, of 80sovs, six furlongs; and the Charlton Handicap, of 120 sovs, seven furlongs. The trotting events on the opening day consist of the Otama Trot Handicap (Harness), of 100sovs, one mile and a-half, 3.52 class, and the Balfour Trot Handicap (Saddle), of 90sovs (open), one mile and a-half.

On the second day principal attention will be centred in the Spring Handicap, of 210sovs, one mile and a-quarter, which should again induce a representative field of ample proportions and size to face the starter. The Eastern Steeplechase, of 125 sovs, two miles and three-quarters, will see the chasers again in action, while the sprint division will be occupied with the Flying Handicap, of 130sovs, six furlongs. In addition the following flat events will command attention: Second District Hack Handicap, of 70sovs, seven furlongs; Waimea Hack Handicap, of 80sovs, six furlongs; and the Muri-piku Handicap, of 130sovs, one mile. Two trotting races—the Mataura Trot Handicap (Harness) of 110sovs, two miles, 5.8 class, and the Labour Day Trot (Saddle), of 85sovs, one mile—complete the second day's programme.

Nominations for all handicaps, including trots, must be made to the secretary, Mr. L. Latham, P.O. Box 46, Gore, on or before 5 p.m. on Monday, October 7.

WAIPA RACING CLUB.

A SUCCESSFUL SEASON.

A most satisfactory record of the season's operations was revealed at the Waipa Racing Club's annual meeting, held at Te Awamutu the other evening, and when it is considered that the club have spared no effort or expense in bringing their course and appointments as thoroughly up-to-date as possible the success which the report presented to members disclosed is all the more gratifying. Mr. J. H. Elliott (chairman of the committee) presided, and in submitting the third annual report stated that reference had to be made at the outset to the loss which the club had sustained through the death of the late Mr. Bray, who since the establishment of the club in its present status had acted as secretary. It was certain that those whose pleasure or profession brought them into contact with the club would

landed of two high-class thoroughbreds from the Old Country.

Speaking of racing generally, it was worthy of mention that the country racing clubs, particularly those of the Auckland province, were making very rapid headway, and it would seem that this had been recognised by those in authority. The constitution of district committee, which formerly embraced 12 members of metropolitan clubs and five as representing the other clubs in the province, including the suburban, had now been altered, the representation being five members from each section, with the addition of the chairman of the metropolitan body. An association had just been formed of the Auckland country clubs, whose object it was to take more interest in the conduct of their own affairs, and to remove the control which had been arrogated by the suburban clubs. This was not considered in the best interests of bona fide country clubs, and would, it was hoped, before long cease to exist.

will fill well will be the Welter Handicap, of 90sovs, minimum weight 8.0, six furlongs. A particularly large entry is assured in the Trial Plate, of 80sovs, five furlongs, for horses that have not won a race of the value of 50sovs at the time of starting, three-year-olds to carry 8.0, four-year-olds and upwards 9.0. The remaining flat event on the programme is the Oxford Hack Handicap, of 80sovs, six furlongs, minimum weight 7.0, six furlongs, while two trotting races are provided—the View Hill Handicap Trot (Harness), of 100sovs, two miles, for horses that can do 5.10 or better, and the Ashley Trot Handicap (Saddle), of 90sovs, one mile and a-half, 3.50 or better.

Nominations for all events close with the secretary, Mr. H. A. Archdall, P.O. Box 22, Rangiora, on Friday, October 11, at 8 p.m.

NEW ZEALAND CRACKS IN AUSTRALIA.

PROSPECTS OF DESERT GOLD AND BIPLANE.

There is £10,000 in weight-for-age races alone waiting for Biplane and Desert Gold in Australia if they strike form this spring (says a writer in the Sydney "Sun"). The Australian Jockey Club will provide three events worth £5000, the Victoria Amateur Turf Club two prizes at Caulfield worth £2000, and the Victoria Racing Club three events at Flemington worth £3000. In addition to these, there are the Caulfield Cup worth £5000 and the Melbourne Cup of £6000 for them to tackle, making an aggregate of £21,000 if they prove equal to the demands made upon them.

It is not suggested that either champions will be capable of winning all these races. If they captured half each they would fare very well. Turf tacticians are already forecasting the races likely to be chosen for Biplane and Desert Gold. Desert Gold's programme is pretty clear. Her trainer indicated on arrival here that she would run in the three w.f.a. races at Randwick. This means that she will miss Caulfield altogether, and her Melbourne Cup engagement will depend upon her form at the A.J.C. meeting, so that if she succeeds in the Randwick Plate (two miles), on the last day of the fixture, it may be taken for granted that the big race will be her sole mission at Flemington.

This would leave the way open for Biplane in the weight-for-age races at Flemington, the mile and a-quarter Melbourne Stakes, the Linlithgow Stakes of one mile (which he won last year), and the C. B. Fisher Plate, one mile and a-half, on the last day.

In the meantime it would be interesting to know which races will be chosen for him at Randwick or Caulfield. Biplane's preparation was interrupted for over a week, as the result of a throat affection a few weeks ago, and some critics say this may prevent his being at his best to meet Desert Gold at Randwick. They hint at the possibility of his missing Randwick altogether, tackling the Caulfield Stakes on the day that the Randwick Plate is run at the A.J.C. meeting, following it up by contesting the Caulfield Cup a week later, and then taking on the weight-for-age races at Flemington.

This plan of campaign reads well on paper, but it credits Biplane's connections with the desire to avoid Desert Gold. Probably the tacticians err in this respect. With his horse fit and well, Biplane's owner would no doubt be as keen on seeing the match as the most ardent admirer of either champion, and knowing the enthusiasm and interest it will add to the A.J.C. meeting, Mr. Greenwood will doubtless do all in his power to bring the pair together.

They will have three chances of meeting at Randwick—in the Autumn Stakes, one mile and a-half, on the first day, the Craven Plate, one mile and a-quarter, on the third day, or the Randwick Plate, two miles, on the last day. It is possible, however, that Biplane will be entered for only the two shorter races.



Percy Johnson, the well-known New Plymouth trainer wishing good-bye to his only son, Corporal F. J. Johnson, who is leaving for the war with the Forty-third Reinforcements. The photograph was taken on the Falkland Road in the Trentham Camp.

miss his genial presence and kindly disposition. The committee mourned him not only as an official, but as a very excellent sportsman and friend. The club had also suffered misfortune by the loss of another respected member, Mr. M. S. Laurie, whose death was much regretted. The late Mr. Laurie had been an official of the old Waipa Racing Club, and had acted as timekeeper for the present club until the time of his death. Yet another loss had to be recorded in the person of Private C. R. Eyre, who had died in the service of his country. To the relatives of these the sympathy of the club was extended.

The club's membership had increased during the year from 263 to 282. Excluding the metropolitan club this was a record for the Auckland province, and evidenced the wisdom of granting a permit to this locality.

The second meeting on the club's course had been held on December 15 last, when, although the fields were not so large as the previous year, due no doubt to lack of railway facilities, the racing, nevertheless, proved keen and enjoyable. The totalisator return amounted to £13,670, an increase of £745 on the previous year. Of this, £686 17s. 1d. had gone to the Government in taxation. The stakes amounted to £700, with the addition of a handsome cup donated by Messrs. Anderson and Main, to whom the thanks of the club were due.

The Waipa Racing Club, in conjunction with the Ohinemuri, Paeroa, Te Kuiti, Rotorua and Hamilton clubs, some time ago had entered into a partnership for the importation of thoroughbred stallions calculated to improve the stamp of our horses. This had eventuated in the

NORTH CANTERBURY AND OXFORD JOCKEY CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING.

South Island owners are evidencing a keen interest in the forthcoming meeting of the North Canterbury and Oxford Jockey Club, which is to take place on Monday, October 28. Being the last of the South Island meetings prior to the New Zealand Cup meeting, which opens at Riccarton on November 4, a large number of horses claiming engagements at the C.J.C. Cup carnival are certain to be given a final trial under silk at the North Canterbury meeting before tackling their respective contests a week later at the metropolitan fixture. The officials of the North Canterbury and Oxford Jockey Club are offering every inducement to owners to be represented at next month's meeting of the club, and there is every prospect of wide patronage being extended this enterprising racing body. Chief in importance of the eight races figuring on the programme is the Rangiora Cup Handicap, of 200sovs, one mile, the minimum weight being 7.0, and indications point to a good sized field going to the post for this event. The Flying Handicap, of 140sovs, five furlongs, provides an excellent opportunity to trainers to try-out their charges before the C.J.C. meeting, and many sprinters of good quality may confidently be expected to claim a nomination for this sprint handicap. The Jumpers' Flat Handicap, of 80sovs, one mile and a-quarter, minimum weight 9.0, for horses that have completed a hurdle or steeplechase course, will undoubtedly receive due attention from the right quarter, while another event which