



An item of news from America is that of the performance of Roamer, a seven-year-old gelding who a few years ago was referred to in these columns through a brilliant achievement and who has since proved himself quite a master of weight and a veritable wonder for a small one, whose admirers class him as only of medium height. The particular achievement which has set the seal on his fame is not a weight-carrying one, however, but a record-smashing one. For just twenty-eight years the mile record was held by the Prince Charlie horse Salvador—sire, by the way, of Salvadan, who was imported to and died in Auckland. That horse got the distance in 1min. 35½sec., and the gelding Roamer has now come along and with the same weight lowered it to 1min. 34 4-5sec. Salvador's go was registered at Monmouth Park and that of Roamer, who is by Knight Errant, son of our own good Musket horse Trenton and the St. Simon mare St. Mildred, at Saratoga. St. Mildred, it may be remarked, never raced. Rose Tree II, dam of Roamer, like Knight Errant, was purchased in England and taken to America, but the latter was not given many chances at the stud. Rose Tree II, who was got by the Bend Or horse Bona Vista from the Minting mare Fanny Relph, went blind, and was only mated, so the story goes, with Knight Errant because the great Star Shoot, the other stallion in the stud, had gone blind like the mare, for which reason they were not mated. Roamer was not thought highly of as a foal, and was emasculated, but has won a lot of races and a good round sum in stakes, well over £18,000.

Winter racing in England is not to be permitted owing to the railway service being already fully taxed. Under the circumstances the edict from the military authorities will have to be accepted in the best possible spirit by sportsmen and owners. We do not have a very great deal of winter racing in New Zealand, but what we do have is usually of the enjoyable kind. Our winters in the Dominion, however, are mild compared with some experienced in the Old Land, and we should miss the meetings we have very much if we were deprived of them. We are fortunate in one respect—we can race all the year round when we are permitted to hold the meetings, and there need be no close season. If there are long intervals between meetings in some parts it is of the clubs' own making. If the people of New Zealand were told by the Government that we should not be allowed to hold race meetings for a period of six months in the year there would be a storm of protest, and some of the members of Parliament would be sure to be rejected at the first general election following any such interference with the chief outdoor pastime of the community. The reduction of days of racing, the second in a brief period of years, was submitted to only because of the exceptional change of the Empire's affairs brought about by the war. When it is over there will be a strenuous battle if opposition is offered to getting the lost days back, and that opposition will be offered by a section of members goes without saying. There are some members opposed to racing altogether. With them there is no half-way house, and one curtailment is only looked upon as a step further towards the next.

The temperance people are making another big fight to carry prohibition at the next election, or when a vote is taken on the question, and the weighty petitions that have gone in from their side as well as from the trade, each side having secured many hundreds of thousands of signatures, show that it will be no small battle. The heads of the National Cabinet have been confronted with these huge petitions, and are agreed that something must be done. They are to consider what that something will be. In the meantime racing is getting a rest, and the racing authorities are looking on quietly and without thought that their citadel may sooner

or later be again assailed. When the next election does come the racing people of the Dominion, who are a force now to be reckoned with if they will but marshal their full strength, should be prepared to deal with those aspiring to become members who will not say straight out that they favour and are prepared to vote for a reasonable amount of racing controlled by the racing and trotting associations of the Dominion. If they do this and work well together there may reasonably be expected to be no further restrictions placed upon the community, whose chief sport, racing, has been curtailed unreasonably much. The end of the war may come just as soon as some people are expecting it, and a lot of after-the-war problems will then have to be settled, and there is a mighty big pile of them.

pity he was not there to ride. When O'Shea got beaten in the Craven Plate on Desert Gold we were told that he made a mistake in leaving an opening for Cetigne, the winner. If he had kept to the rails we should perhaps have read that—but for the New Zealander shutting in that horse he would have won. We were told also that McLachlan said he could have been with Desert Gold at any stage of the race, and that Wolaroi, his mount, would have won but for a stumble. We were told also that had McLachlan been on Estland instead of the lightweight O'Connor, Estland would have won, and we were left to assume that if he had been on Desert Gold and someone else had been on Wolaroi he would have landed the New Zealand mare home all right. None of the papers have suggested that

Biplane was a puller. At the time Biplane was not wound up, and consequently was not so highly strung as when getting searching gallops. All the same, McLachlan's opinion was sought and duly appeared. If some people got the impression from this that Deeley did not manage the colt as well as McLachlan could do that would not be surprising. McLachlan is certainly about the best advertised horseman in the southern hemisphere. There are plenty of good men who never get the same chance to advertise themselves. Men who are fortunate enough to secure the pick of mounts and are seldom on bad ones have the luck of it. We have heard criticisms of some of McLachlan's efforts frequently—occasionally in the papers. He is said to have lost the Eclipse Stakes at the Caulfield meeting on Wolaroi through riding in anything but brilliant style, while Outlook's rider, the veteran R. Lewis, excelled himself. How McLachlan won on Estland from Prince Viridis in the Randwick Plate by a head, "after being left badly"; how he "came too late" and lost the V.R.C. Derby on Finmark on Saturday, when that colt finished third less than a length behind Eusebius and Outlook, who finished within a neck of each other, the cable now tells us, and there are at least a good many New Zealand punters who are to-day wishing that J. O'Shea had not been taken off the colt. There are also many who would have been quite satisfied had he been on Desert Gold in the Melbourne Stakes, though we do not suggest that he could have done any better on Mr. Lowry's good mare, on whose back he won more good races than any other horseman ever won on any other horse or mare in the colonies, than did young Bracken.

That Desert Gold ran right up to the best form she has ever shown over a mile and a-quarter when she was defeated on Saturday in the Melbourne Stakes by the imported horse Magpie admits of no doubt whatever. It was a record time performance for the course, and she had Wolaroi, who only just beat her at Randwick, behind her this time, as well as Estland, her stable companion. The gruelling race Estland had after being left in the Randwick Plate and working for the long-distance event (the Melbourne Cup) since, may have caused him to lose a bit of the brilliancy he showed in the Craven Plate, and then there is the probability that he was out for a gallop to help on his Melbourne Cup preparation. This colt's rider was not cabled, but he finished sixth in a field of nine.

If there had been any good ground to assume that the imported Magpie was only a miler at best, it was dispelled by his win in the Melbourne Stakes, to which reference has been made above. It would have pleased all New Zealand admirers of Desert Gold had she been able to win the race, and if it has been exasperating luck to just get beaten in the last little bit in her third race on Australian soil this spring, and each time by different horses, the lessons conveyed should not be lost upon oversanguine sportsmen who regarded her as an unbeatable weight-for-age proposition when she went to Australia in the autumn, and were more confident than ever when she left again on her spring campaign. The best get beaten. Desert Gold was still Queen of the Australasian turf when she finished second to Magpie, the first imported horse to beat her, but some of the "kings" have defeated her. First Poitrel, a four-year-old, then Cetigne and Wolaroi, her own age, and her four-year-old stable-mate Estland, and now the five-year-old English horse Magpie, and in each instance they had to beat records to defeat her. This shows that she never ran more brilliantly, and as she turned the tables on Wolaroi (who had two hard races in the interval in the Eclipse Stakes and Caulfield Cup) and Estland (who had a hard go in the Randwick Plate, two miles), and had five others behind her, it can be assumed that she has again greatly distinguished herself and has still all her wonderful vitality and ability.



MR. JAMES MUIR, proprietor and editor of "The New Zealand Bowler," who has been a member of the Wellington Bowling Club for 14 years. He is also a member of the Wellington Bowling Centre, and an honorary member of the Otaki B.C. Mr. Muir's record reads as follows: (Lead) Champion Nomination Rink, Wellington Bowling Club; Champion of Champions, Wellington Bowling Centre, 1916-17; Champion Nomination Pairs, Wellington B.C., 1917-18.

J. O'Shea, who has been known as a straight goer ever since he started race riding, did not like the idea of playing second fiddle to McLachlan in Australia, and so a termination of his engagement with Mr. T. H. Lowry was the result. O'Shea has won more races for Mr. Lowry than any other horseman has done, and it is understood that it was at his own wish that he did not go over to ride in Australia last autumn, when McLachlan got the riding on Desert Gold. New Zealand horsemen have not always received the credit due to them for their work in Australia, and sometimes opinions concerning their ability, as expressed by rivals—jealous rivals, often anxious to secure mounts for themselves—find their way into print. It was always understood that O'Shea was first horseman to Mr. Lowry. We should all like to see New Zealand boys associated with the successes of New Zealand horses. When McLachlan was defeated on Desert Gold in Australia last autumn New Zealand friends of Jack O'Shea were everywhere found declaring that it was a

Estland could have won with O'Shea up. That rider has a high opinion of Estland, and naturally he would have liked to have been on him in the Melbourne Cup. He rode that colt when he beat Biplane in the Wanganui Guineas, when many riders would have considered pursuit hopeless. Mr. Lowry has to pay the piper, and, of course, has the privilege of calling the tune, but all the same it is rough on young O'Shea being turned down for another horseman at such an important stage of his career—his first visit to Australia.

McLachlan is a recognised horseman, but he has had his turn of bad luck at the game. Everyone knows that Biplane was a bit of a handful for Ben Deeley in his work in the spring of last year at Randwick. While waiting for Deeley to go over to ride him work this spring, R. J. Mason got McLachlan to ride the son of Comedy King, and immediately afterwards it appeared in the papers that McLachlan had stated that in his (McLachlan's) hands Biplane was no trouble. He laughed at the suggestion that