

INTERPROVINCIAL

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.)

WELLINGTON.

Influenza Scourge Makes Big Inroads in Racing Ranks—Foalings at Moutoa Homestead—Auckland Cup and Railway Handicap Weights.

WELLINGTON, Monday.

There does not seem any probability of racing being resumed in the immediate future owing to the ravages of the scourge that is at present sweeping through New Zealand and carrying off in its train a very large number of well known and respected citizens, including many popular sporting enthusiasts, who will be greatly missed. From New Plymouth news was recently received of the death of Mr. J. McKean, a well-known owner and mine host of the Criterion Hotel at that town. The late Mr. McKean, who was a popular personality, raced the horses Primato, Piano and Madam Ristori. His untimely death is much regretted. Tom Pine, of Hawera, who had a big string of racehorses, including Inah and Volo, died on the 23rd inst. He was a young man, and was much esteemed by everybody with whom he had business relations. Lower down the line Mr. H. Baker, of the Clarendon Hotel, Palmerston North, is among the respected citizens who have succumbed to this virulent scourge. The epidemic is beyond a doubt thinning the ranks of the sporting fraternity, and many familiar faces will be missing from the racecourses in the future.

Moutoa Girl (Soul—Katarina) has foaled a colt to Treadmill.

At the Moutoa Homestead the brood mare Kate Laddo, by Sir Laddo—Cecile, the latter being the dam of Lady Moutoa, has foaled to Sarto. As Mr. F. S. Easton only breeds every other year from his mares she will be unmated this season.

Princess Moutoa (Martian—Assegai) has foaled a fine filly foal to Absurd. With the young stock he

has coming on Mr. Easton should be in a position later on to take a prominent part in the decision of many of the classic races to be decided in New Zealand.

Mr. F. J. McManemin's weights for the two principal handicap events at the A.R.C. summer meeting have been the leading topic in sporting circles during the past week. The general opinion is expressed that the handicapper has done his work remarkably well. The adjustments all through bear the impress of judicious care and expert judgment, and there should be a liberal response from owners when acceptances fall due. The writer favours the prospects of Red Ribbon (7.7) and Killard (6.10) in the two-mile race, while on paper the probability of Inah (8.0), Onslaught (7.13) and Wrestler (7.10) giving a good account of themselves in the six furlongs sprint is decidedly promising. It is a fairly far cry from now to the day of the meeting, and there should be some chopping and changing in the ruling favourites for the coveted double.

Trentham stables are fairly well represented in the Auckland Cup, amongst the number claiming an engagement in the big Ellerslie event being Menelaus, Bonnie Maid, Rose Pink, Mascot, Active and Risingham. The horses named have all capital credentials to recommend them, and the majority of them are sure to see the post.

Sir James Carroll has fully recovered from his influenza attack, and is once more in his accustomed seat in Parliament.

Secure a copy of the "Sporting and Dramatic Review" Christmas Number in time to post it on to your friends for a seasonable souvenir. All portions of the world have been exploited for pictures, from local fishing scenes to the temples of the East.

WAIRARAPA.

Chimera and Otara Progressing Well—Two Yearling Colts Latest Additions to J. Jamieson's String—Influenza Causes Dislocation of Training Work—Death of Mr. Rupert Morrison—Masterton-trained Representatives in Auckland Cup and Railway Handicap—The Weights Reviewed.

MASTERTON, Friday.

Owing to the postponement of several of the race meetings, and the delay in transport, it has been decided to keep the Wairarapa-trained horses at present in Auckland (Form Up, Cyrisian, Gladful and Misslove) there until after the summer fixture.

Wishful is still running out in the paddock, and it is not likely that the son of Boniform and Drought will be taken in hand again until the autumn.

Chimera and Otara are showing signs of coming back to form shortly, and their recent track efforts have been pleasing their trainer, J. J. Gravestock.

J. T. Jamieson arrived back from Riccarton during the week with the horses that had been competing at the Cup meeting, and also brought the two yearling colts purchased by Mr. A. McDonald. Both are by Martian, one being from Strathspey and the other from the imported mare Vicella. They are both in good condition.

It was intended to give Hymestra and Nanna a race at the Wairarapa Racing Club's summer meeting, but as the fixture has been postponed, it is not likely that the pair will have another gallop in public before going north for the Auckland fixture, at which gathering they were successful last season.

The yearling colt which Mr. Kemball purchased recently at Christchurch lacks nothing on the score of breeding. He is by Martian from Rose Red (sister to Madrigal, Rose Madder, Munjeet, Mungista, Rubia, All Red, Ukraine (dam of Sasanof) and Cronstadt (by Stepniak—Madder). He arrived in Masterton in good condition, along with Scornful and Rebuff.

The death occurred at one of the temporary hospitals in Masterton on Tuesday last of a lad named C. Whale, an apprentice in the employ

of T. Pritchard, the Opaki trainer. The cause of death was pneumonia, supervening on influenza. The lad was 15 years of age, and had a bright and cheerful disposition. He had his first ride at the local meeting last month.

Several severe cases of influenza have occurred among Masterton trainers and their assistants during the past week or two. While at Christchurch, W. Hawthorne and two of his stable lads were laid up, one having to be left behind until well enough to come north. T. Higgins and both of his assistants have been down, and J. J. Gravestock was in a serious condition for several days. Some of the local trainers have not been able to work their horses for over a week owing to the shortage of stable hands. Very few have escaped, though fortunately most of the cases were in a mild form, and are now well on towards complete recovery.

After a short illness, the death occurred this morning (Friday) of Mr. Rupert Morrison, of Blairlogie, Masterton. The deceased was very well known among sportsmen in the Wairarapa and Wellington districts, and was a keen follower of all kinds of sport. He was a liberal patron of hunting and show ring events, and successfully competed in jumping competitions at the different shows. About 12 months ago the late Mr. Morrison established a stud farm on his station, and among other animals purchased were Hymestra and Straga, sire and dam of Hymestra, Torfreda and Hyades. There are several yearlings at present on the property, and some have been entered for future classic events. The late sportsman was a liberal donor to patriotic funds. He was 35 years of age.

The weights allotted the Masterton-trained horses engaged in the Auckland Cup and Railway Handicap seem to be on a fairly lenient scale, with the exception, perhaps, of Snub, in which case Mr. Kemball's gelding seems to have his full share in being asked to carry 9.2 over the two-mile course. Despite the fact that the son of Martian and Lady Disdain won the Canterbury Cup under weight-for-age conditions, it must be remembered he failed under his handicap weights at the same gathering. In the New Zealand Cup

Notable Performers on the New Zealand Turf.—No. 24: ST. ELMN.



A LEADING DOMINION STEEPLECHASER—MR. W. RICHMOND'S BR G ST. ELMN, AGED, BY ST. AMBROSE—MAUD. RANGI THOMPSON IN SADDLE. TRAINED BY J. CAMERON. ST. ELMN proved victor in the last New Zealand Grand National Steeplechase (3½ miles) at Riccarton in August.