

Snub had 7.11, and in the Metropolitan Handicap 9.2, but failed to gain a situation in either race. Last year in the Auckland Cup he was weighted at 8.5 and finished outside a place, and in the 12 months following his only successes have been in the Pahiatua and Canterbury Cups. Weight-for-age form does not always work out true, and it may be said to apply in this case. In the Auckland Cup Snub will have to carry 11lb. more than he failed under last year, and 19lb. more than he had to carry in the New Zealand Cup. The stable have also Scornful engaged at the minimum. The other local candidate, Red Ribbon (7.7), appears to have been well treated, as last year she finished within a length of the winner with 7.2, afterwards running second in the Wellington Cup with 7.11, and later on winning the Wairarapa Cup under 8.5. In the Railway Handicap, Hymestra (9.4) and Nanna (7.10) were both in places in the event last year, the former dead-heating with King Lupin for first place, and Nanna was third. Hymestra will carry 12lb. more this year and Nanna 7lb. Torfreda has yet to win over a six-furlong course, but she is very fast over short distances, and is not harshly treated with 7.10. The other Opaki-trained candidates, Damien and Belle Noir, are on the 6.7 mark.

CANTERBURY.

Training Operations Almost Normal Again—Local Teams in Preparation for Auckland R.C. Meeting—Gloaming's G.N. Derby Prospects—Heathercote and Royal Stag Promise to Run Well at Ellerslie—Punka's Railway Handicap Engagement—Euripos and Post Haste Re-commissioned—Promising Two-year-old Fillies—Mr. G. L. Stead's Strong Hand in Auckland Cup.

CHRISTCHURCH, Monday.

So far as training operations are concerned matters at Riccarton are again almost normal. Unfortunately the uncertainty as to when the Minister of Internal Affairs will lift the embargo on racing, has upset owners' plans in regard to their Christmas and New Year campaigns.

That Riccarton stables will be liberally represented at the Auckland summer meeting is practically assured. R. J. Mason, H. Cutts, R. O'Donnell, and M. Hobbs all have teams in preparation for the northern fixture, the members of which form a decidedly strong collection.

During the past week Gloaming has been given several sprinting tasks showing all his accustomed brilliancy. He is a great mover, and judging by his displays at Randwick, should be just as well adapted to right as left handed going. In Finmark's absence the Great Northern Derby now looks easy money for him as on Riccarton form neither Kilmoon nor Heathercote can have much chance of reversing positions with him. He may be accompanied north by one or two of Mason's other charges, probably Afterglow and Eleus.

On a couple of occasions lately H. Cutts has worked Heathercote, Onslaught, Royal Stag, MacDuff, Lionskin, and Happy Captain the reverse way which suggests that most of them will journey to Ellerslie. Heathercote will strip a much better colt than at the C.J.C. meeting, but even so it is hard to imagine him having much chance of lowering Gloaming's colours in the northern blue ribbon. Royal Stag is another who can be expected to do the Chokebore stable credit. He is a most determined galloper, but unfortunately is invariably slow to find his feet in a race.

The veteran trainer R. Derrett has almost recovered from his recent severe illness, and expects soon to be in harness again. Two of his charges in Margerine and Larissa have been kept going by J. Pine, their probable mission being the Dunedin summer meeting.

M. Hobbs has not allowed Punka or Killard to remain idle after their exertions at the C.J.C. meeting. The former's mission will probably be the Railway Handicap, and judging by the manner in which she kept Gloaming going in the early stages of the Stead Memorial Stakes, the Australian filly should take a lot of beating over six furlongs. Killard was not nearly at his best at the C.J.C. Cup meeting, and will strip in vastly improved form for his northern engagements.

After being off the tracks for nearly twelve months Euripos and Post

Haste have been recommissioned by F. D. Jones. Both geldings are decidedly in the rough and it will be autumn before their mentor can expect much from them.

Two recent additions to M. Hobbs' useful team are a pair of two-year-old fillies bred and owned by Mr. J. B. Reid. One is a half-sister to Kilmoon by Sunny Lake, and the other is by Kilbroney from Orange Pippin. They are to be got ready for autumn racing.

Mr. Luttrell's pair of two-year-olds, Flight Commander and Sans Souci, have both been emasculated. They got over the operation quickly, and are at present enjoying a few weeks' spell in one of their trainer's paddocks.

The well-known horseman Hector Gray has made a surprising recovery from his recent accident; so good, in fact, that he can now get about with the aid of crutches. He is in splendid health, and expects to be riding again early in the New Year.

Amongst the latest recruits to F. D. Jones' team is a two-year-old filly by Winkle from Historiette, owned by the North Canterbury sportsman Mr. G. B. Starky.

Zuland is still on the easy list, but is to be taken in hand again shortly. Other members of R. W. King's string that are doing well in their tasks are Sir Tarka, Matty and King of the Valley, all of whom will be raced at some of the minor holiday fixtures.

Recently R. J. Mason has commissioned the two-year-old gelding Falstaff, an Australian-bred son of Comedy King and Petruvia. He was purchased by Mr. G. D. Greenwood last January at 210gns., and looks like developing into a useful performer.

The weights issued by Mr. McManemin for the Auckland Cup have been well received locally. With Kilmoon, Almoner and Melee Mr. G. L. Stead holds a very strong hand. On C.J.C. form Kilmoon promises to be very hard to beat, for he is a rare stayer and game as a pebble. If Almoner could only be landed at the post in his best form his chance would have to be greatly respected, for he is a high-class three-year-old. Since returning from Australia he has done little work, and there is no great chance of his being taken to Auckland. Menelaus looks to have favourable prospects amongst the top-weights, while Bonnie Maid, Glendower and Mascot are others that on Riccarton form should race well.

HAWKE'S BAY.

G. Jones' Team Still Quartered at Greenmeadows—Demagogue at Present on Invalid List—Influenza Scourge Levies Heavy Toll—Sale of Finmark—Success of the Okawa Breeding Establishment.

NAPIER, Monday.

The anticipated location of G. Jones' team at Woodville has evidently fell through, for this trainer is again domiciled with his string at Greenmeadows in the quarters that he occupied prior to his departure for the south last October.

T. Quinlivan, accompanied by Mrs. M. A. Perry's representatives, arrived at his home quarters at Otatara, Taradale, last Tuesday from Lyttleton. All the bunch came back in good health and condition, with the exception of Demagogue, who is suffering from side trouble, and his trainer considers it will be some time ere he will be free of the malady.

The prevailing scourge has during the past few days removed several well-known local people from our midst, and amongst them are many who were known in the world of sport, namely, Mrs. A. J. Ellingham, wife of Mr. A. J. Ellingham, of the Pacific Hotel, Hastings, a lady who will be greatly missed in the district, for she was foremost in the band of workers who were always at their posts when the alleviation of distress called for urgent action. Mrs. H. Hassall, who succumbed to the visitation of the influenza fiend, was the wife of Mr. H. Hassall, of "Soutra," Riverslea, and was greatly respected in the "Bay," her personality and generosity having made her a universal favourite amongst those fortunate enough to come into touch with her. Mr. G. Lomas, for quite a number of years had filled the position of clerk of the course to the Napier Park Racing Club, and his demise will be keenly felt, not only by the racing folk, but also in other circles. Another victim, Wallace McKay, an apprentice jockey attached to P. Smith's training quarters at Hastings, was a bright cheery lad not out of his teens, and his efforts

in the saddle were indicative that had he lived he would have made his mark as an exponent of the art of riding, for he had good hands, keen perception and energy. Amongst others to succumb to the dread disease was H. Watson, who had not been long back from the Cup meeting, where he had been engaged following his avocation of jockey, where, amongst other mounts, he was up on Maioha when he won the Avon Welter at Riccarton. The deceased served his time under S. Waddell, at Karamu, and in addition to being a good horseman was a courteous well conducted young fellow who will be greatly missed in turf circles.

Hendra is going along all serene in his preparation on the get ready route at Napier Park, and providing he runs up to his rehearsal form when sent out for battle the black gelding will be one of those who will get the judge busy to hoist his number as a winner.

The sale of Finmark by Mr. T. H. Lowry marks the removal of another good one from the fields of action in the Dominion, as the new owner of the colt is domiciled in Australia, and his activities will, therefore, be confined to those parts. It is only a short time back since Mr. Lowry sold the colt's full brother, Estland, for 3500 guineas, and it must be admitted that in breeding this pair at his stud farm at Okawa, Mr. Lowry can lay claim to having made a judicious selection in mating Finland with War Scare. He certainly had something to go upon, for he got a good lift along the road to success with Bobrikoff, who is a half brother (by Finland) to War Scare, and he just went back to the blood again coupled with an admixture of the Martian strain, for War Scare is by Martian, and Finland begat both Estland and Finmark. The experiment, however, fell short in another direction, for War Talk, a younger full sister to War Scare, was also mated with Finland, and the production of hers by that sire, Communique by name, never showed anything like or approaching the quality possessed by her full brothers in blood, Estland and Finmark. Last season Mr. Lowry changed the mating of War Talk and War Scare, for he sent the former to All Black, while War Scare visited Demosthenes.

The postponement of several race meetings, and the visitation of the influenza have had the effect of curtailing training operations in these parts, and there is practically nothing of note in the way of preparatory gallops to report from either Hastings or Napier Park.

Trainer K. Quinlivan has been putting up a great tussle with the prevailing epidemic for the past 10 days, but happily he has now got the best of the enemy, and it is anticipated that in a very short period he will again be going well and strong.

WANGANUI.

Client to Start in the Manawatu Cup—F. Tilley's Team for Manawatu Meeting—Feilding J.C.'s Meeting—Golden Bubbles to Make His Debut at Awapuni—Vance in Steady Work—H. Rayner's Pair for Feilding.

WANGANUI, Monday.

Client has been withdrawn from the Auckland Cup, but the son of Elevation claims an engagement in the Manawatu Cup, to be run on Boxing Day. F. Tilley has evidently decided to take his team to Awapuni instead of going north. In addition to Client, F. Tilley has Acre, Moutoa Ivanova, Oratress, Moutoa Camp and Rude engaged at Awapuni. The two last-named have not yet been seen out this season, but they are reported to be doing good work, and they should be in capital fettle by Christmas.

It is to be hoped the Feilding Club will be able to hold their meeting on the date (the 18th inst.) provisionally set down for the gathering, as any further postponement will probably militate against its success. There is every reason to believe that if held on the 18th the meeting will be a big success, since some splendid racing is assured, judging by the excellent acceptances received, and the horses engaged there could race on that date and have ample time to go on to Auckland if they are to race there the following week.

W. Rayner intends to give Golden Bubbles (the two-year-old colt by Absurd—Catchfly) his first run in public at the Manawatu meeting, where he is engaged in the Juvenile Handicap. This colt has been much

admired by many good judges, and if he turns out as good as he looks he should make a name for himself on the track. He is owned by Mr. G. W. Currie.

Rayner also has Farce, Pennon, Zola and Zela engaged at Awapuni and they are all looking and going well on the track. The fact that the tracks continue in a more or less soft condition as a result of the wet weather we have been experiencing has been in Pennon's favour, and the soreness which troubled her last season has not shown itself to any extent so far this season. She is galloping in good style, and should be at her best for the Feilding meeting, at which she is to contest the Stakes.

Zola is looking particularly well, and he, too, finds the tracks more to his liking than they would be if on the hard side. He figures in the hurdles at Awapuni, in which he will have to meet a better class than he defeated so easily at Hawera, but he is likely to make things interesting for the best of them.

J. Peachey is giving Undecided a steady preparation for the hurdles at Feilding, in which he has 9.9. He is going along nicely, and appears to be very well. Hupana, in the same stable, has been galloping in an attractive style recently, and she ought to be hard to beat in the Flying at Feilding if she begins well.

H. W. Johnston is keeping Vance at steady work, and the daughter of Advance—Daisy Clipper is likely to show improvement when next seen out, which will probably be at Feilding, where she figures in the Trial Plate.

H. Rayner will probably take both Carmel Arch and Starengo to Feilding. They are both looking in excellent fettle, and it should not be long before they place a win or two to their credit.

Gang Awa' is amongst the entrants for the hurdles at Awapuni. He is not now an inmate of the Fordell stable.

RACING REINSTATED.

It was announced by cable from Melbourne that restrictions imposed in Victoria in connection with racing had been removed. This, no doubt, refers to war-time curtailments ordered by the Defence Department. A cable from England a few days earlier announced that the embargo lifted. We may be sure that the re-on winter racing there had been suspension of racing will be welcomed wherever it had been deemed advisable or where it was absolutely necessary to limit or stop it while the war was on. Racing is recognised as a world-wide and healthy amusement by a very large section of the community, and we shall soon hear that preparations are to be made in France and in other countries for a renewal where it suffered a big setback. In France many of the studs were removed from the danger zone during the inroads made by the enemy upon French territory, though the breeding of thoroughbreds could not have received anything like the same attention in that part of the world as in pre-war times. Many fine studs were dispersed in England, but it can be taken for granted that breeding horses for utility purposes to make good the wastage that has been enormous in the trial of the war will be one of the immediate concerns of all nations where their great value has been proved.

An Australian exchange suggests that the sale of Finmark by Mr. Lowry may have been partly due to the uncertainty in connection with shipping arrangements.

AUCKLAND RACING CLUB.

SPRING MEETING.

POSTPONED TILL SATURDAY,
JANUARY 4, 1919.

NOMINATIONS FOR HANDICAPS
CLOSED OCTOBER 18.

WEIGHTS WILL APPEAR ON

THURSDAY MORNING,

JANUARY 2.

ACCEPTANCES CLOSE SAME DAY
AT 12 NOON.

Owners who have declared Final Payment for the G.N. GUINEAS or WEL-COME STAKES may withdraw their horses on payment of 1s.0v each instead of full subscription up to FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, by 5 p.m.

W. S. SPENCE,
Secretary.