

RACING NEWS

MARTON JOCKEY CLUB.

SUMMER MEETING.

Now that the influenza epidemic is showing signs of completely disappearing in a very short while and thousands of those who were among the first to contract the malady are now restored to health and back again at their work, there is to be noted everywhere a strong revival of interest in racing matters, the near approach of the Christmas and New Year fixtures being responsible for the marked enthusiasm with which racing men are looking forward to the resumption of the sport after an enforced spell of several weeks. Race meetings in various parts of the Dominion will form the principal attraction during the coming holiday period, the summer meetings which are set down for decision at this particular time of the year invariably providing some of the keenest contests on record, several cup races being among the number. The Marton Jockey Club's summer meeting, which is to be held on New Year's Day, will require attention at the hands of owners and trainers on Friday next (December 6), when Mr. Arthur Way will take entries for that fixture up till 9 p.m., at his office, Marton. The meeting has already attracted considerable notice in view of the fact that the Marton Cup (open), of 600sovs, one mile and a-quarter, is to be run, an event which never fails to draw a good field of useful handicap performers. The chief sprint event is the Railway Handicap (open), of 350sovs, six furlongs, for which a good nomination is assured. An event which will be appreciated by owners and trainers, especially in view of the unavoidable curtailment of spring racing, is the Juvenile Handicap, of 200sovs, for two and three-year-olds, five furlongs, while another good field may be confidently looked for in regard to the Hack Hurdles Handicap, of 175sovs, one mile and a-half. In addition to the events named, two hack races, a welter and a ladies' bracelet hack handicap are included on the varied programme, which should induce a splendid response from the right quarter on Friday.

GISBORNE RACING CLUB.

SUMMER MEETING.

The Gisborne Racing Club have arranged a most attractive programme for their summer meeting, which is to be held at Te Hapara on Thursday, February 6. Special significance is attached to the fixture as the Gisborne Cup, of 400sovs, one mile and a-quarter, is to come up for decision, and will assuredly as in previous years be the means of bringing together a representative field as contenders for this much-coveted distinction. In connection with the Cup it may be mentioned that the 400sovs stake includes a cup valued at 25sovs, presented by the Wi Pere Memorial Committee, a trophy that will be much prized by the owner of the winner. The chief sprint is the Wi Pere Memorial Handicap, of 200sovs, six furlongs, an event which should fill particularly well. The First Handicap Hurdles, of 120sovs, one mile and a-half, offers special opportunities to the lepping division, while owners of hacks are well catered for, having the choice of the Te Hapara Hack Handicap, of 100sovs, seven furlongs; Maiden Scurry, of 100sovs, four furlongs; Railway Hack Handicap, of 100sovs, five furlongs; First Welter Handicap, of 120sovs, one mile; and the Park Handicap, of 135sovs, six furlongs. It will thus be seen that the Gisborne Racing Club have endeavoured to make their summer programme a strong inducement to owners to be represented at the gathering, and now that there is every prospect of racing quickly resuming its pre-war position, the granting of travelling facilities, which is promised at an early date, being one of the most vital factors towards achieving this end, the Gisborne summer meeting on the club's course at Te Hapara

should merit a fair share of patronage from visiting owners and trainers. In the absence of railway facilities during the greater portion of the war the club undoubtedly suffered a severe handicap in the loss of many entries from adjacent districts, but now that the war is over and the question of transit is to receive the early attention of the Railway Department there is every reason to expect that meetings held in Gisborne will be much more liberally patronised in the future by outside owners, who, through no fault of their own, were unable to be represented at the last few meetings in that progressive racing province.

STRAY NOTES ON THE A.R.C. HANDICAPS.

Mr. McManemin, it is known, did not adjust the weights for the spring meeting of the Auckland Racing Club. The work was done by Mr. H. Coyle owing to Mr. McManemin being laid up with influenza, but as it was decided when the postponement of the day's racing was brought about that fresh handicaps would be made after the first three days' racing of the

has given Nystad 6lb., Bo-Peep and Torfreda 7lb., Birkenvale 8lb., and Vagabond 10lb. less than Mr. Henrys did, while Shiela has only 4lb. less. The meeting was to have been held on November 30. The extra 26 days favours the three-year-olds Bo-Peep and Torfreda as against the older ones named.

Eight horses engaged in the A.R.C. Railway Handicap are also engaged in the Auckland Cup, and it is interesting to note the different treatment of some of them; for instance, two of the same age, Punka and Taunaha, filly and colt respectively, the first-named a winner up to a mile and a-half and prominent in the best company, has been set to give Mr. Richmond's colt 13lb. in the Railway and 2lb. in the Cup. This seems a big difference. It is greater still in the case of Gazique, who is asked to give the colt 25lb. in the Railway and 10lb. in the Cup. Gazique has been handicapped as a non-stayer, and is set to meet Taunaha as if that colt were a proved stayer, which, of course, may turn out to be the case, but it is interesting to note that he is called upon to meet Gazique at such a difference as 15lb.,

MELBOURNE CUP SENSATIONS.

Melbourne Cups have been comparatively free from accidents. When Archer won in 1861 three horses fell. Two of them, Despatch and Medora, had to be destroyed.

In 1878, when Calamia won, Chester ran against a post, and his rider (J. Morrison) received injuries from which he never recovered and which caused his death 11 years later.

In 1881, when Zulu won, Wheatear fell over a dog, and Suwarrow also came down. Dodd, Suwarrow's rider, received injuries which killed him.

In 1888, when Mentor won, Spade Guinea broke his shoulder, and Ensign his off hind fetlock.

In the following year, when Glenloth won, Pilot Boy fell. Tirailleux and Portsea came down over him.

In 1892, when The Victory won, Merton Steel fell, and was subsequently shot. His rider, N. D. Godby, had his leg broken.

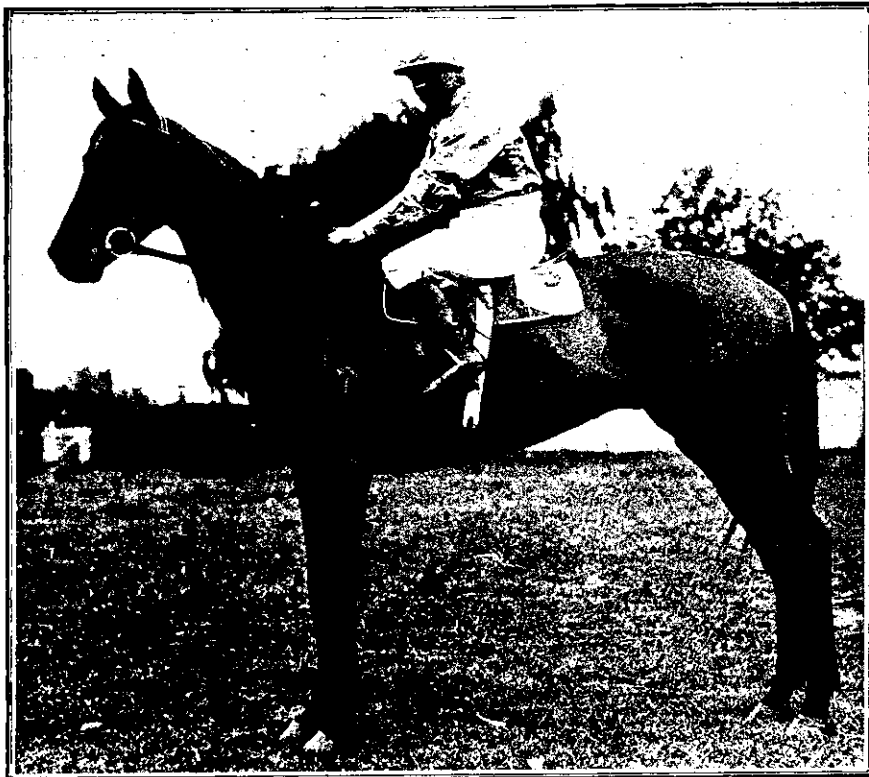
WHANGAREI JOCKEY CLUB.

SUMMER MEETING.

The leading race fixture north of Auckland, the Whangarei Racing Club's annual meeting, is to be held on the Kensington Racecourse, Whangarei, on January 15, when eight events, including the Whangarei Cup Handicap (open), of 150sovs, one mile and a-quarter, will be run off in the presence of the club's many patrons. A number of horses from Auckland are taken each year to Whangarei to compete at the local meeting, and this fact has enabled the club to make their stakes more attractive, with the result that the Ellerslie contingent are now regarded as an invaluable factor towards the success of the gathering. The deserving efforts of the club merit a gratifying reward in the shape of excellent nominations, and there is certain to be a splendid response in this direction when entries come to be taken on December 28. In addition to the Cup, the following events are to be decided: Kamo Handicap (five furlongs), Railway Handicap (open), six furlongs, County Handicap (seven furlongs), Publican's Purse (open), seven furlongs, Farewell Welter (six furlongs), Maiden Plate (six furlongs), and the Kensington Stakes (five furlongs).

DEATH OF A BRAVE OFFICER.

The late Major Clyde McGilp, D.S.O., whose portrait appears on our "Clubman" page, was one of the most efficient and popular young officers who sailed from these shores for Europe, having enlisted for active service immediately on the outbreak of war. He had already served in the South African War, and, being a capable artillery officer, with many years' territorial training to his credit, he was given command of the First Battery, N.Z.F.A. with the Main Body of the Expeditionary Force. After taking an active part in the costly Gallipoli campaign, Major McGilp saw continuous service in France with the New Zealanders, where he was awarded the D.S.O. for conspicuous bravery and gallant conduct. He returned to the Dominion last May in consequence of ill health, and since then up to the time of his death at Featherston about the middle of last month from pneumonia rendered further valuable assistance to the Dominion's proud army as an instructor and lecturer. His death, coming so unexpectedly after his many hair-breadth escapes at Gallipoli and in France, not to mention South Africa, was sad beyond the extreme, especially as he was the last of the Main Body battery commanders, a young man who had risen high in his career as a soldier by sheer grit and unswerving devotion to duty and whose prospects in the future were of a most promising order. He was chief field artillery instructor at Featherston Camp at the time of his death. When in Egypt, Major McGilp, who was a son of Mr. and Mrs. A. McGilp, of Birkenhead, Auckland, married a daughter of the Chevalier D'Aquilina, who came to New Zealand and was at Featherston with her husband at the time of his death.



Mr. F. J. Lysnar's b g CLEFT, 6yrs., by Multifid—Cricium. The late H. Watson in saddle. Trained by H. J. Hickey. Among Cleft's successes last year was the Gisborne Cup (1 1/4 miles).

A.R.C. summer meeting, it will fall to Mr. McManemin to make them. In the Railway Handicap are about a dozen horses that were accepted for in the Shorts Handicap, which was to have been run at the spring meeting. Mr. McManemin has treated Cardrona, Vagabond, Housewife and Cyrisian relatively the same, King Abbey 2lb., Gacyium 3lb., Waiuta 4lb., Arran and Silver Link 5lb., Happy Valley 12lb. and Miss Ellice 16lb. worse. It is in consequence of the handicap for the Railway coming so low that the two latter at any rate suffer by comparison, but Cyrisian, a three-year-old, and those of that age are expected to improve about 4lb. in the interval, comes out of the comparison best. Then King Abbey, who is the same age, and as they have been given 5lb. and 3lb. respectively pull over Silver Link the conclusion must be that Mr. McManemin thought her too well in the Shorts Handicap, for which, by the way, she was a strong fancy, as she was for the Flying Handicap at Avondale, for which she was not started owing to the illness of both her trainer and rider. Gaycium, by the way, was third in that race carrying 7.6, only a half-length and neck behind Rekanui (7.12) and Kereona (6.11), respectively.

In the list of acceptors for the Flying Handicap at Feilding there are half a dozen that are engaged in the A.R.C. Railway Handicap, the same distance. Of these Mr. McManemin

Punka 11lb., and the North Shore-owned pair Housewife and Lord Kenilworth, he being the younger, on 6lb. and 3lb. respectively worse terms over the longer course. Lord Kenilworth whatever he may do or fail to do in the future has certainly been better treated on figures than horses he beat last year, when a three-year-old, and he won two races, ran second in the Derby to Estland, who he led until well down the straight, and now has 38lb. from him in the Cup. He ran third in the Waitemata Handicap, one mile and a-quarter, with 9.5 to British Arch (8.13) and Demotic (8.0), and gave 19lb. to Slipstitch, 29lb. to Blue Cross, 32lb. to Pearl de Mont, three that are in the Auckland Cup, and they are now only 2lb. below him in weight, with no form in the interval in the case of Slipstitch and Pearl de Mont, who did not run again last season, and only the same consistent plodding on the part of Blue Cross, who shortly afterwards won one race in which were horses giving him weight, which Lord Kenilworth had given lots of weight to. Lord Kenilworth is treated like an old horse that has lost form instead of a young one that should improve on anything he did last year. His A.R.C. summer meeting and Takapuna summer meeting form impressed both Mr. McManemin and Mr. Coyle favourably, but his one start at Avondale seems to have been accepted as a complete loss of form instead of as a gallop likely to help him to do better.