

INTERPROVINCIAL

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.)

WELLINGTON.

Wellington Turf Sensation—Disqualification of Prominent Sportsman—The Wellington Racing Club's Summer Meeting.

WELLINGTON, Monday.

The news of the disqualification for two years of the well-known and popular Feilding sportsman, Mr. Ernest Short, by the District Committee of the Wellington Racing Club has been the chief topic of conversation in racing circles during the past few days. The alleged incident which led to the disqualification of this prominent North Island owner occurred in connection with the running of his horse Demos at the races held at Trentham on October 26, 1918, when it was alleged by jockey H. Young that Mr. Short had given him (Young) instructions not to win the Shorts Handicap on Demos. As events turned out Demos duly won, with the result that something that came to the ears of the stewards of the W.R.C. necessitated their making inquiries, as a consequence of which Mr. Short has been disqualified from racing for a period of two years. The matter is a grave one. Something more will assuredly be heard of the case. Counsel who was acting for Mr. Short was refused admittance to the inquiry, a customary course with most stewards.

In the above connection, in conversation with the writer, a leading racing authority expressed the opinion that Mr. Short's disqualification would shake the foundation of racing in New Zealand as it was quite apparent to those intimately acquainted with the business that the sport of kings required some uplifting in this country. Whether the statements alleged to have been made by Mr. Short in connection with the running of Demos are admitted or not the fact remains that the colt won. In fairness to Mr. Short it must be said that he has always

been prominent in patriotic matters, his benefactions amounting to a large sum, while the gift of his race-horse Hastie to be raffled for the Returned Soldiers' Hostel affords further proof of his generosity. A large hearted and kindly man, Mr. Short has many friends, who sympathise with him in his present predicament. Immediately on hearing the decision, Mr. Short lodged the necessary security for an appeal to the Racing Conference.

Capital nominations have been received for the summer meeting of the Egmont Racing Club, which takes place at Hawera on February 12 and 13, all the principal stables being well represented. Weights are due on February 8.

The Wellington Racing Club's summer meeting, which opens at Trentham on Wednesday, will be brought to a conclusion on Saturday next. With the first day's form as a guide, backers should have a better opportunity of showing a profit after their afternoon's encounter with the totalisator.

Arch Lassie, who was recently trained at Ellerslie by F. Stenning, the well-known Greenlane trainer, is now an inmate of C. Pritchard's stable at Trentham. The filly will be amongst the runners at the Wellington Racing Club's meeting this week.

Sir George Clifford is represented by a useful team at Trentham, the list including Macduff, Heathercote, Lionskin, Miss Mimic and Sir Fanciful. The bearers of the light blue and gold chequers all looked well to the eye when viewed by the writer on the tracks, and they should fare well during the progress of the two days' racing.

Mr. A. J. Toxward, of Lady Lucy Lodge, Kairanga, has a fine specimen of the thoroughbred in the imported Bonny Briar (Bona Rose—Spring Briar), who is built on unmistakable galloping lines. The three-year-old filly claims engagements at Trentham this week.

Mr. A. McDonald, of Ngakonui fame, is well represented at the local meeting. In Affection, Murihiku and Rose Wreath the sportsman named has a trio of promising juveniles. Rose Wreath looks like turning out very useful. She is by Kilbroney from Christmas Rose, and can go fast over a short course.

Hurry Up (Advance—Moutiti) promises to be a warm order for the Douro Cup, to be run on Saturday. The three-year-old can gallop to some purpose.

Zabism, who was named by the writer after she was purchased by Mr. Truman, formerly of the Carlton Club Hotel, Hastings, promises to make good on the turf. The nomenclature of this five-year-old mare makes interesting reading, and, provided she lives up to the appellation, she should bring owner-trainer Tom Higgins, of Opaki, many successes. She will be amongst the runners at Trentham.

WAIRARAPA.

Opaki Course Almost Deserted at Present—Wishful Rejoins Active Brigade—H. Eva's Team—Lady Black in Work Again—Locally Trained Horses Engaged at Taranaki Meeting—Mishap to Vasilkov—Mr. W. R. Kemball's Team for Australia.

MASTERTON, Friday.

The lad, C. Holmes, an apprentice in W. Hawthorne's stables, who broke his leg while riding Missland home from the Opaki course, is making good progress in the Masterton Hospital.

W. Garrett is only taking one horse to the Wellington meeting. This is Red Ribbon, who is engaged in the Cup. Mr. Dorset's mare was second last year to Nobleman.

Among the drafts of returned soldiers to reach the Dominion this week is Private Harry Pritchard, who, before enlisting, trained Chillies and Black Lake at Masterton.

Snub has been allotted 9.9 in the Pahiatua Cup, which is 9lb. more than he carried to victory last year. The stable has also Scornful and Multaine entered.

With most of the local horses away at Trentham and Foxton, the Opaki course is quiet at present. This will

give caretaker McConkey a chance to do some top-dressing and other improvements to the training track.

The only local candidate to get into the money at the Feilding meeting was Zabism, third place being the best T. Higgins' mare could do. Zabism was well fancied locally after her good showing at Marton.

Wishful is again one of the active brigade on the local track, and the son of Boniform and Drought is looking a picture of health after his spell. He is to be given a run in flat events before taking on the battens.

Torfreda has quite recovered from the ailment which laid her aside after the Manawatu meeting, and is going along nicely under J. T. Jamieson's care.

H. Eva, the Featherston trainer, is not expected home with his team for some time, and they will probably compete at Takapuna, Taranaki, Egmont and Wanganui before returning to Featherston.

Lady Black has been taken up again after a lengthy spell, and Mr. A. Cameron's mare is nice and big to start her preparation for the autumn meetings. T. Pritchard still trains her.

Wairarapa-trained horses engaged at the Taranaki meeting are Rose Wreath, Murihiku, Snub, Scornful, Form Up, Cyrisian, Hydrus, Multicupal, Wishful, Railand, Hymestra and Nanna.

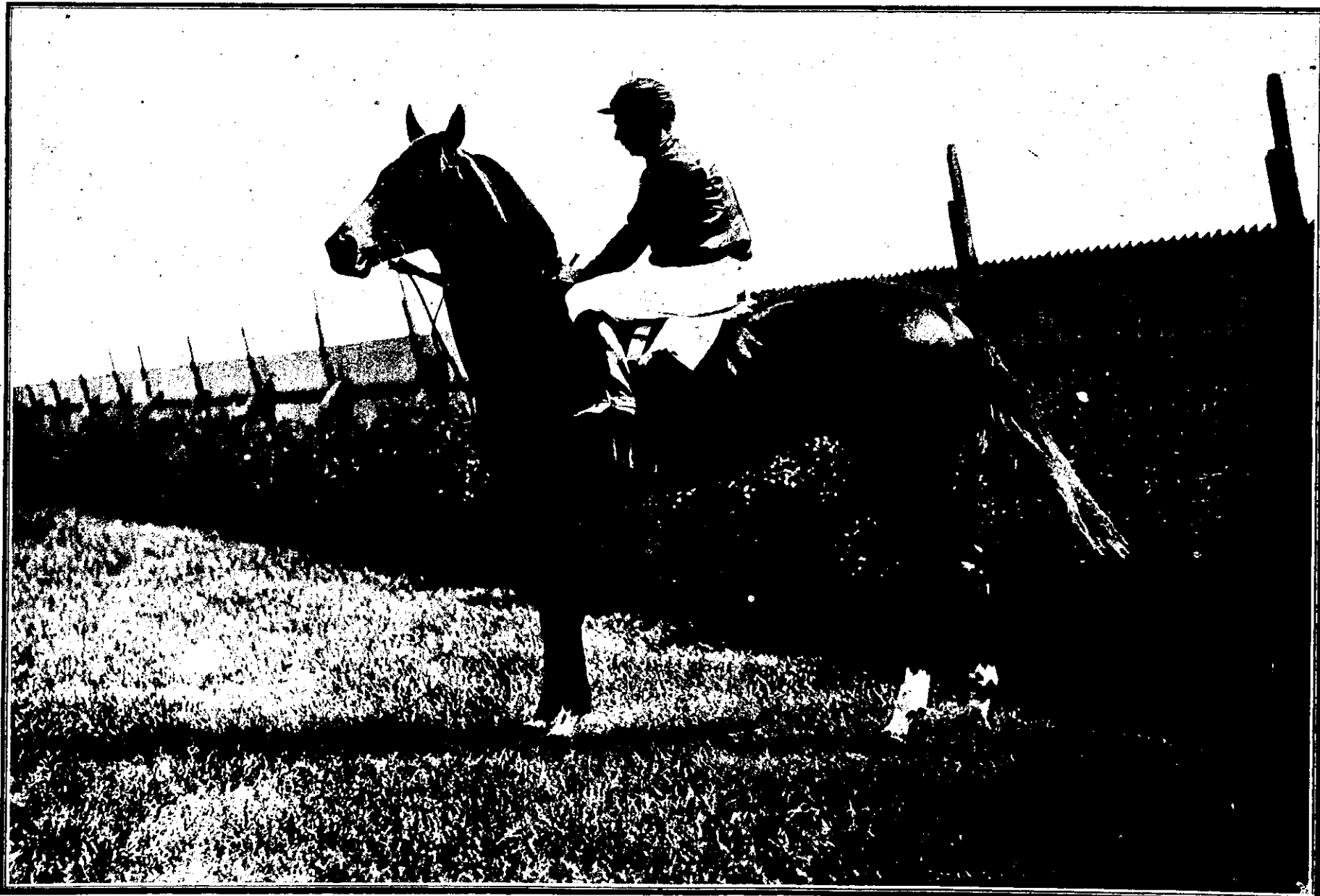
Local trainers who are at present assisting at the Wellington meeting are: W. Hawthorne (Rebuff, Snub, Scornful, Hymestra and Nanna), J. T. Jamieson (Murihiku, Rose Wreath, Torfreda and Affection), T. Pritchard (Damien and Galore), W. Garrett (Red Ribbon), R. Knox (Penury Rose), T. Higgins (Zabism), and P. J. Daly (Hytnas).

Scornful has built up a lot since coming to Masterton. He was in rather a bad way for a while after the New Zealand Cup meeting, but now is looking fresh and well.

Lady General had not sufficiently recovered from her recent accident to be taken to the Wellington meeting. She is having an easy time at present.

Vasilkov, the half-brother to Sasnof, had bad luck on his visit to Auckland, and was unable to start at the meeting. At the New Plymouth railway siding the black gelding fell, but did not sustain serious injury. At

Notable Performers on the New Zealand Turf.—No. 31: BIPLANE.



ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT HORSES THAT EVER RACED IN AUSTRALASIA—MR. T. A. STIRTON'S BR H BIPLANE, 4YRS., BY COMEDY KING—AIR MOTOR, WHO WAS RECENTLY PURCHASED FROM MR. G. D. GREENWOOD WITH A VIEW TO AGAIN RACING IN AUSTRALIA IN HIS NEW OWNER'S INTERESTS. B. DEELEY IN SADDLE. BIPLANE was purchased by Mr. Greenwood as a yearling for 375 guineas, and his winnings to date in New Zealand and Australia reach the substantial sum of £13,596.