



# RACING NEWS

## RACING FIXTURES, 1918.

Jan. 22—Foxton R.C.  
 Jan. 22, 25—Wellington R.C.  
 Jan. 29, 30, Feb. 1—Takapuna J.C.  
 Feb. 1—Canterbury J.C.  
 Feb. 5, 6—Taranaki J.C.  
 Feb. 6—Gisborne R.C.  
 Feb. 8—Poverty Bay T.C.  
 Feb. 12, 13—Egmont R.C.  
 Feb. 13, 15—Dunedin J.C.  
 Feb. 15—Te Kuiti R.C.  
 Jan. 16—South Canterbury J.C.  
 Feb. 20, 22—Wanganui J.C.  
 Feb. 22—Waipa R.C.

## EVENTS REQUIRING ATTENTION.

### Wednesday, January 22.

Acceptances first day Takapuna J.C. summer, by 5 p.m.

### Thursday, January 23.

Weights second day Wellington R.C. summer, in morning paper.  
 Acceptances second day Wellington R.C. summer, at 12.30 p.m.

### Friday, January 24.

Nominations Poverty Bay T.C. summer, at 8 p.m.  
 Nominations first day Wanganui J.C. autumn, at 8 p.m., also second forfeit Jackson Stakes, 1919, at 8 p.m.

### Saturday, January 25.

Weights Gisborne R.C. summer.

### Monday, January 27.

Weights first day Taranaki J.C. autumn.  
 Weights first day Dunedin J.C. autumn.

### Wednesday, January 29.

Weights second day Takapuna J.C. summer, by 8 p.m.  
 Acceptances second day Takapuna J.C. summer, by 9 p.m.

## A SENSATIONAL DISQUALIFICATION.

It has been an open secret for some time past that the committee of the Wellington Racing Club had disqualified Mr. E. Short, of Feilding, for a period of two years in connection with alleged happenings at the time of their spring meeting. What the disqualification was for there has been no official pronouncement, but Mr. Short met the Wellington District Committee on Thursday last, and after hearing what he had to say the finding of the Wellington R.C. committee was endorsed. Mr. Short thereupon lodged the necessary deposit to appeal to the Racing Conference, who, it is understood, will set up a committee to hear the appeal. In the meantime nothing further can be said. Why the disqualification was not officially announced shortly after it was imposed we are unaware. In the interval Mr. Short has been racing his horses and winning with some of them. That, under certain circumstances, would complicate matters, but the delay in the holding of the District Committee meeting was, it is admitted, to give Mr. Short the time asked for as an act of consideration at his special request. While he was in Auckland during the progress of the summer meeting and for some time afterwards he was in hospital quarters, where he learned that the matter had been deferred until the 16th inst. In the event of the appeal judges deciding against him, the stakes won in the interval will, it is contended, not be affected, as disqualifications do not take effect until they have been endorsed by the District Committee and upheld or rejected on appeal to the higher tribunal.

Whatever the decision in the above case, it is time that enquiries were set on foot to ascertain who are pulling the strings in connection with some racing stables. From the way certain people back horses not their own, and over which it is thought they have no control, it is often assumed that they are acting in the confidence of owners or as their agents. It sometimes becomes known, however, that the owners have no interest in the transactions, and have not encouraged anyone to do business directly or indirectly on their behalf. To even up matters with people who take such liberties, betting owners sometimes use the scratching pen, or ask their riders to do things they should not be parties to. Then the trouble begins. The boys, to their credit, won't always do as they are wanted. There are many who are straight. For some

who are not the risk is too great in these days of vigilant stipendiary stewards. Possibly they know who have been backing their mounts. Sometimes they have got their own friends in and have, through such assistance, helped themselves to the market. To stop horses under such circumstances would be suicidal. Their advice at the last moment to owners is to back their horses—since someone else has got the cream the

the rider to stop it. An owner is well within his rights in scratching a horse when it suits him to do so, or in leaving it in until half an hour before a race when he has not condescended at keeping the horse in the market. To run a horse "dead" and let people lose their money invested on the horse on the course in good faith, in the belief that the horse is out to do its best, is quite another matter.

being substituted as a mark of respect to the late Mr. W. H. Hartgill, who for many years acted as judge to the Dannevirke Racing Club. The race in question has been raised 50sovs. in value since last year, and will assuredly attract an excellent entry of handicap horses from various parts of the North Island. The principal sprint race is the President's Handicap (open), of 200sovs., six furlongs, while another event which is certain to be well patronised by owners and trainers is the Tamaki Welter (open), of 200sovs., seven furlongs. The Juvenile Handicap, of 130sovs., five furlongs, is set apart for the two-year-old division, from which quarter an excellent response may be looked for. Owners of hacks have been specially catered for, having the choice of the following four events, in all of which it is safe to prophesy large fields will be entered:—Maiden Plate, of 100sovs., five furlongs, for three-year-olds and upwards that have not won a race at the time of starting; Tahoraitite Hack Welter, of 125sovs., seven furlongs; Rakaiatai Hack Handicap, of 125sovs., six furlongs; and the Makirikiri Hack Handicap, of 130sovs., one mile and 50 yards.

Nominations for all events close with the secretary, Mr. Walter Dobson, on Wednesday, February 12, at 8 p.m., while handicaps will be declared on Saturday, February 15.

## OHINEMURI JOCKEY CLUB.

### ANNUAL MEETING.

One of the most popular meetings held within the Auckland province is that of the Ohinemuri Jockey Club, which takes place annually at Paeroa. This year the club will hold their annual races on the Paeroa racecourse on Saturday, March 15, when a highly enjoyable programme is promised the club's many patrons. Chief in importance among the valuable races to be decided is the Ohinemuri Cup Handicap, which carries with it the valuable stake of 500sovs., and is to be run over a mile and a quarter. That there will be a splendid entry for the Ohinemuri Cup may be accepted as certain, as the event, which has been raised 100sovs. in value, is one of the most remunerative handicaps of the season in the northern province. The St. Patrick's Handicap, six furlongs, has also been raised from 200 to 250sovs., and can be relied upon to attract a high-class field of sprinters. The latter also have an opportunity earlier in the day of competing in the Karangahake Handicap, of 200sovs., five furlongs, and many owners will doubtless avail themselves of this chance of starting their horses twice during the afternoon, an interval of three races separating the events in question. The Netherton Welter, of 160sovs., seven furlongs; Komata Hack Handicap, of 150sovs., six furlongs; and the Maiden Handicap, of 150sovs., five furlongs (for horses that have never won an advertised race of any value at the time of entry) complete the list of flat events. The jumping races consist of the Paeroa Steeplechase Handicap, of 140sovs., 2½ miles, and the Handicap Hurdles, of 150sovs., 1¾ miles and both events are certain to induce good nominations.

Nominations for all events close with the secretary, Mr. H. Poland, Paeroa, or with Mr. C. F. Mark, Durham Street East, Auckland, on Saturday, February 22, at 8 p.m.

The well-known horseman J. N. McGregor, who easily holds the record in Australasia for the number of serious falls and injuries he has received whilst riding over fences, first in New Zealand and then in Australia, where in pre-war times he was the leading hurdle horseman, met with another bad fall whilst steering Amberise in the hurdle race at the Sandown Park races in Melbourne during the holiday period. Amberise came to grief early in the race, McGregor being thrown heavily, sustaining severe cuts about his face.



A SMART TWO-YEAR-OLD—Messrs. V. and E. Riddiford's b c SOLFANELLO, by Solferino—Rosalia. A Reed in saddle. Solfanello's latest win was in the Nursery Handicap (five furlongs) at Ellerslie on Boxing Day.



Winner of the Carrington Stakes (six furlongs) at Tattersall's Club's meeting at Randwick—ARIES (K. Bracken) after her smart performance.

owner is left with the skimmed milk. That sort of thing is taking place at all too many meetings. Owners do not get a fair deal unless they are alive to all points in the game. Those with good horses have to be especially careful or they can easily be left. A late scratching may sometimes have a steadying effect upon some of those who get in early and back horses as if they were their own. The every-day backer then suffers with the big forestaller. Pre-post betting is supposed not to exist under the laws of this country, but it does exist and ever will. Those who are expected to observe the law and set an example are often the offenders. Scratching horses at the eleventh hour is more than tantalising to their supporters. Allowing them to drop out at the first acceptance is considerate when owners make up their minds not to run. It is an unpardonable offence running a horse and getting

## DANNEVIRKE RACING CLUB.

### AUTUMN MEETING.

The Dannevirke Racing Club will hold their autumn meeting on Wednesday, February 26, and judging by the enthusiasm displayed by the officials in connection with the preliminary arrangements for the gathering a new record in all departments should be entered up in the club's annals with regard to the coming fixture. Evidence of the progressive action of the club is contained in the fact that substantial increases in stake money have been made in respect of each of the eight events appearing on the well-endowed programme. The Dannevirke Cup, which has always constituted the leading event at the autumn meeting, has been replaced this year by the Hartgill Memorial Handicap (open), of 300sovs., 1¼ miles, the latter name