

TURF GOSSIP.

Friends are pleased to learn that the Taranaki owner Mr. Monte Mills was one of the survivors from the ship *Aryan*, burned at sea. They would like to see the popular Monte with a good horse again. His luck has been out a long time.

Prior to the Wellington meeting, the three-year-old Maniapoto—Largesse gelding Palm Oil had already two consecutive wins to his credit at the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's New Year fixture, so that his victories at Trentham in the Trentham Apprentices' Handicap and the Douru Cup Handicap bring his record up to four consecutive successes. Palm Oil was bred by Mr. G. F. Moore, at Wanganui, and a successful future is predicted for the promising brother to Ngapoto.

By running the Wellington Stakes (five furlongs) in the fast time of 58 3-5sec, Gloaming knocked two-fifths of a second off the previous record for the race made by Desert Gold in 1916. Gloaming gave further evidence of his sprinting powers when he easily accounted for the Kelburn Plate (four furlongs) on the concluding day at Trentham in 46 2-5sec, which is a record for the race. The previous best times since the inauguration of the Kelburn Plate at the Wellington summer meeting are as follows: 1915, Croesus 48sec.; 1916, Egypt, 47 2-5sec.; 1917, Hymestra, 46 3-5sec.; 1918, Croesus, 47 3-5sec. B. Deeley has the distinction of riding three of the five winners in the Kelburn Plate, being on Croesus twice and on Gloaming.

Some few months ago a certain race meeting was held—where, for the life of me, I dare not mention—and a little conspiracy took place between three owners of the fancied candidates, and it was decided that one of the three was to win (says a writer in a Johannesburg paper). Of the other two, the rider of one consented to take "a hold," but the other jockey refused to be a participant in the "pull up" stakes, and therefore he was informed that they intended backing him, and he was to have "a go." The lad was a relative of the clerk of the scales, and he gave him "the office." He was weighed out correctly, and at this stage everything in the garden looked lovely. In the meantime the clerk of the scales had invested a tenner at fairly remunerative odds. The owner saddled up and extracted three pounds from the lead bag. The conspirators' money went on the "right pea"—as they thought. The race took place and the "wrong 'un," that they thought that was three pounds light weight, returned to scale as winner. Gloating over the apparently "dead bird," they waited for the call of short weight. Instead of that they got the shock of their lives when they heard proclaimed in no unmistakable voice, "Weight." They then "jerried" that a "cross" had been worked. The lad got off the scales, walked into the dressing-room, and in the meantime the missing lead was quickly handed to him, which he put inside his vest. There was a "hullabaloo," with cries from the disappointed ones of: "He never weighed in properly!" "He didn't draw the weight!" The youngster on the winner standing by, who was in the joke with the clerk of the scales, said: "It's a lie. I know it is not right for me to weigh in again, and it makes no difference to the result of the race, but anyway I will weigh in again to show you." He steadily got on the scales and everything was found O.K., and to this day the conspirators don't know how the game was worked.

Our Invercargill correspondent writes:—

It has been a case with local trainers for many weeks past of get busy between the showers, but, luckily, the prevailing winds have kept the tracks fairly dry. The province is undergoing a very bad season, and thoughtful lovers of the horse are wondering where next season's oats are going to come from. The area under grain cultivation is much below the average at present and a continuance of the current climatic conditions spells chaff-cutting instead of oat-threshing following on the harvesting season. This state of affairs will surely result in more restricted

fields for mere punters to worry over next season.

The committee of the Southland Racing Club will consider the amount of stakes to be distributed at the local autumn meeting when they come together at the end of the week. The very encouraging profit reaped over the summer meeting makes it almost certain that the prize money will be increased.

Golden King and Fleetham have been undergoing swimming exercise of late, a fact which does not encourage belief in the imported English horse's chances in connection with the Dunedin Cup contest this month. On the other hand, nobody takes much notice of Golden King being prepared on water exercise, as the son of Golden Knight is always more or less infirm and is simply a wonderful animal to stand up to racing at all. If it were not for the care lavished on the old fellow by jockey W. Robinson it is safe to say that P. T. Hogan's charge would never see the post, let alone win the money which annually falls to his share.

The Pallas—Minaret stallion Musulman has been all to pieces of late, and is now being treated to a short

about again after a spell. The full brother to Kauwhero is under the care of H. G. Coker, who was the first trainer to win pronounced success with his elder relative referred to.

With the steeplechase races of the Southland Racing Club, Gore Racing Club and Riverton meetings within easy sight the problem arose as to where the contestants were to come from, but this is a puzzle no longer. At Wingatui C. Christie has the jumpers Compulsion, Grafton Tot and Nocturnal in commission, Glenthorpe and Chappal Moh are training at Riversdale, G. Easton has Precious Metal and another in work at Invercargill, and P. T. Hogan, J. Thistleton, R. Langford and a number of amateur mentors have the regulars busy conditioning in readiness for solid work.

It is expected that six novices will make their appearance over hurdles at the Dunedin Cup gathering, the horses mentioned being: Kauwhero, Hardshot, King Star, Rubican, United Service and Wingform.

The readjustment of racing dates will be welcomed by the Gore Racing Club, as this will enable them to extend their summer meeting dur-

meeting, and, if not overburdened with weight, should run well. He is only a small equine, but his heart is in the right place and his recent efforts do not appear to have improved his vigour.

The latest addition to P. T. Hogan's string is a chestnut by Calibre—Alumini, and it is noticeable that he is singularly like his brother, Hardshot, but showing rather more substance.

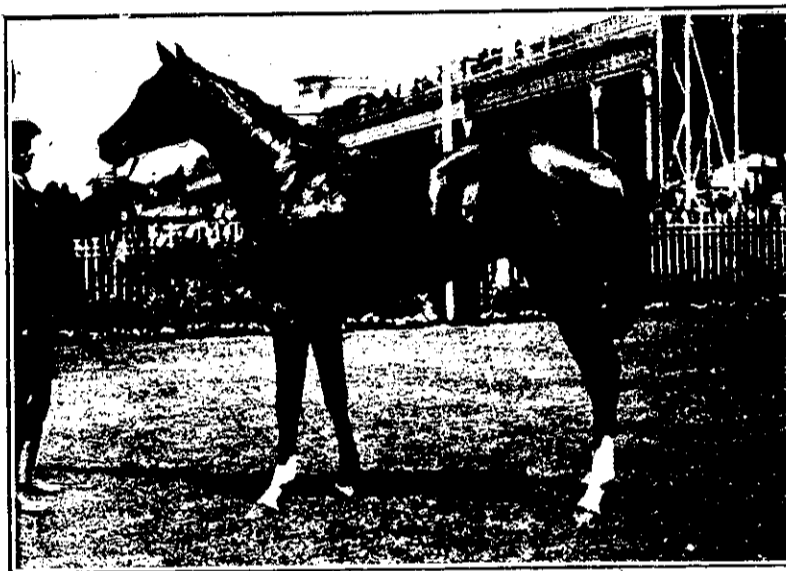
Whilst in Auckland, M. Corbiere, a member of the French Mission, was at Ellerslie, where he had a look at some of the horses in work there. Some of the horses had worked before breakfast and consequently were not seen, but the visitor, who has a stud of his own in France, contented himself by passing a critical examination of a few as they came off the tracks from work, Hyllus, Downham and Stilts being a trio each of which he remarked on—Stilts as a useful all-round sort, Hyllus as a good type of horse for stud purposes (which he undoubtedly is), and Downham as a neat-shaped gelding whose hocks, the visitor explained to his companion, were not just what connoisseurs in his country would call just the thing. The stallion Robert the Bruce, who had just finished his season, was inspected on the road, and some remarks passed about the Carbine-Musket blood in his veins through Wallace. Mr. M. McCallum, one of the Course Committee of the A.R.C., and Colonel Lyon, of the Veterinary Department, accompanied the visitor, who expressed pleasure at what he had seen of New Zealand horses during his visit, and spoke highly and interestingly concerning the stud of Mr. J. B. Reid, so soon to be dispersed, and of the condition of all the horses there. M. Corbiere is well up in pedigree and a figure man, and looks for quality and conformation, and is clearly an expert judge. As he has some noted mares himself he was much interested in seeing what others have in the colonies, but his time was too limited, of course, to visit all the studs, or even more than a few of them, when south.

By the time the next meeting of the Auckland Racing Club comes round there will be provision made in the totalisator for thirty horses the property of different owners. The totalisator recently installed provided for twenty-three only, but it was understood at the time arrangements were made for its use that the number could be extended. It was partly a matter of the cost which weighed with the committee in at first going in for the smaller number, but as a matter of fact a larger number of sections could not have been arranged for if it had been then deemed advisable, for the reason that a fire in Australia had proved disastrous to a large quantity of material of the company, and some of the wire necessary could not be procured in the colonies, and it was feared might not be obtained for a lengthy period while the war was on. Fortunately, the company have since obtained their supplies, and the Niagara brought the required additions this week. The situation will therefore be vastly improved when totalisators are again registering business at Ellerslie. The most pressing time is at the summer meeting, while at the winter meeting there is a heavy demand at the windows. There is reason to anticipate that from now forward there will be no more difficulties in the way of smooth running of the totalisators at Ellerslie. It is only a matter of getting the horses out and sending them to the post in good time and the money will be got on.

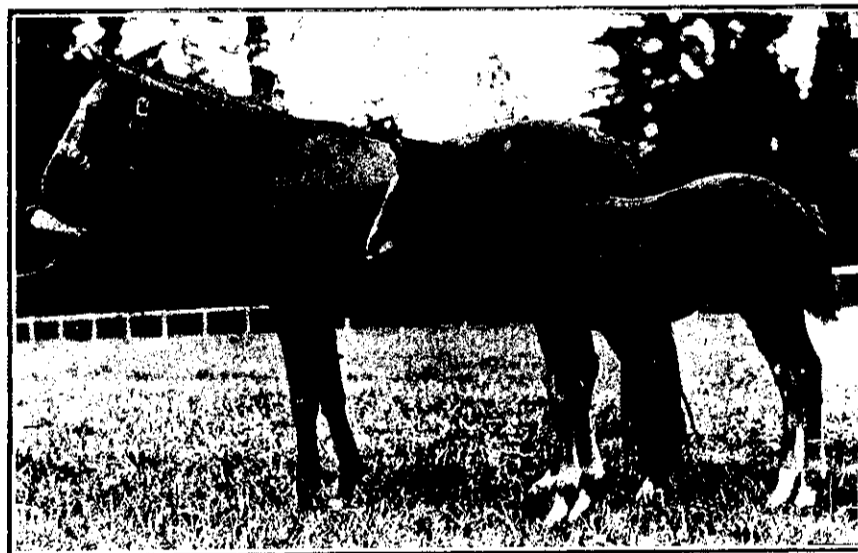
If Melee had been beaten by Rewi Poto for the Wellington Racing Club Handicap, over a mile and three furlongs at a difference of nearly two stone in weight, some people would have been declaring Mr. Gerald Stead's three-year-old of little account. He has won, and though the performance is nothing to enthuse over, it may be the forerunner of a greater success.

Probably the Takapuna Jockey Club would have had a two days' meeting in the month of May if it had been anticipated that the embargo would have been lifted and racing dates restored. Three days' racing in the summer at Takapuna was a mistake, in our opinion. Though the meeting will pay right enough from the club point of view, a two days' meeting in May would pay better from the point of view of the owners, who have no racing in that month in Auckland.

Windorah has now won four races on end.



A SMART TWO-YEAR-OLD—Mr. Gerald L. Stead's ch f SUNDANCE, by Sunny Lake—Showano. Trained by R. O'Donnell.



GREY LINNET (imp.), by Thrush—Marie Lagraye, one of the high-class lots to be submitted at auction on Friday next (February 7) at the dispersal sale of the famous Elderslie Stud at Oamaru. Grey Linnet was bred by His Majesty the King.

spell to see if he can be freshened up. This is a good horse, but one calling for experienced and delicate handling.

Rorke's Drift is working along consistently in view of an annual autumn trip to his own particular hunting ground of Wingatui. In the event of the Calibre gelding landing fit and well at the post for the Dunedin Cup several northern owners will probably learn that Rorke's Drift at Riccarton and Rorke's Drift at Wingatui are evidently two distinct horses.

Wild Night has had an easy time of it since the Wairio meeting, but is not to be allowed to relax his efforts to a great extent, as he is wanted for the minor events of the Dunedin Jockey Club's autumn meeting.

The many people who pay an annual visit from Southland and the Goldfields to Wingatui to see the Dunedin Cup decided have reason to be attracted by the prospects for the contest this month. The rise in the value of the stakes to £1500 has evidently had a satisfactory result, as the North Islanders Mascot, Menehaus, Red Ribbon and Rose Pink have been nominated for the 12 furlongs event, while Canterbury and Southland stables are very strongly represented.

The four-year-old gelding Cattach, by All Red—Replete, is being hacked

ing the first week in April to its original two days.

Owing to the original racing dates for the Southland Racing Club's autumn meeting including the prohibition referendum day permission has been granted for an alteration. The fixture will now be held on March 26 and 27.

Southland-owned horses have been freely entered for the Dunedin Cup, viz., Burrangong, Fleetham, Marsa, Mazama, Rorke's Drift, Samiel and Thaddeus. Of the seven named, Burrangong disappointed many of his backers in the Invercargill Cup, but the test was hardly a fair one owing to Marsa spreadeagling her field. Burrangong ran as well as some other well-backed horses, and looked as if trainer McIvor had room to improve him—he looked too nice. Mazama was another horse who ran below expectations, but the Southland track did not suit him, and he was also suffering from reaction following on a stiff New Zealand Cup preparation. The North Island-bred animal is apparently doing well in his work at present. Over 80 entries have been made for Southland-owned horses at the meeting of the year in Otago.

The Wairio Cup winner Glenwood is engaged in several of the minor events at the Dunedin Jockey Club's