

## TURF GOSSIP.

Gazique, who went amiss prior to the Takapuna meeting, is feared to have broken a small bone near the knee.

This year there are exactly the same number of horses in the Newmarket Handicap as last (114), but the Australian Cup nominations have dropped from 92 to 63.

R. S. Slevier, well known in Australia, was a candidate for Parliamentary honours at the recent election in England. He was the Coalition representative for Shoreditch. Result not to hand.

In England this year the stud fee of Radium (sire of Rebus and King Offa) is £49, and of Llangibby (sire of Lanius) 19 guineas. When Radium sired Rebus and King Offa his fee was 200 guineas, but during the war the fees of most stallions in the Old Country dropped considerably.

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The Masterton Racing Club has been advised that the latest date selected for its autumn meeting, viz., March 27, is not available. Another date is consequently being applied for.

The Australian Jockey Club's donation of £1120 to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital for specific purposes has been allocated as follows: £320 for the purchase of whirlpool baths and electrical appliances for the treatment of returned soldiers; £300 for the furnishing of a ward of 20 beds for tubercular cases amongst soldiers; and £500 for the erection of a recreation hall for the soldiers in the wards.

No thoroughbred mares are to be served by Headwind, who was recently purchased by the Moonee Valley Racing Club with a view to assisting the Defence Department in improving the breed of military horses. It is stated that Mr. Mackay accepted a price considerably below Headwind's market value as a racehorse, and the Moonee Valley Racing Club will charge merely a nominal stud fee for approved half-bred mares.

Finmark, Estland and Colugo are now working at Victoria Park, and, according to "Pilot," their owner is of opinion that the going is softer there than at Randwick. Although he looks bright and bigger than in the spring, Finmark's soreness is so pronounced that it appears as if his trainer, M. Hynes, will have a deal of trouble in getting him to his best for the autumn meetings.

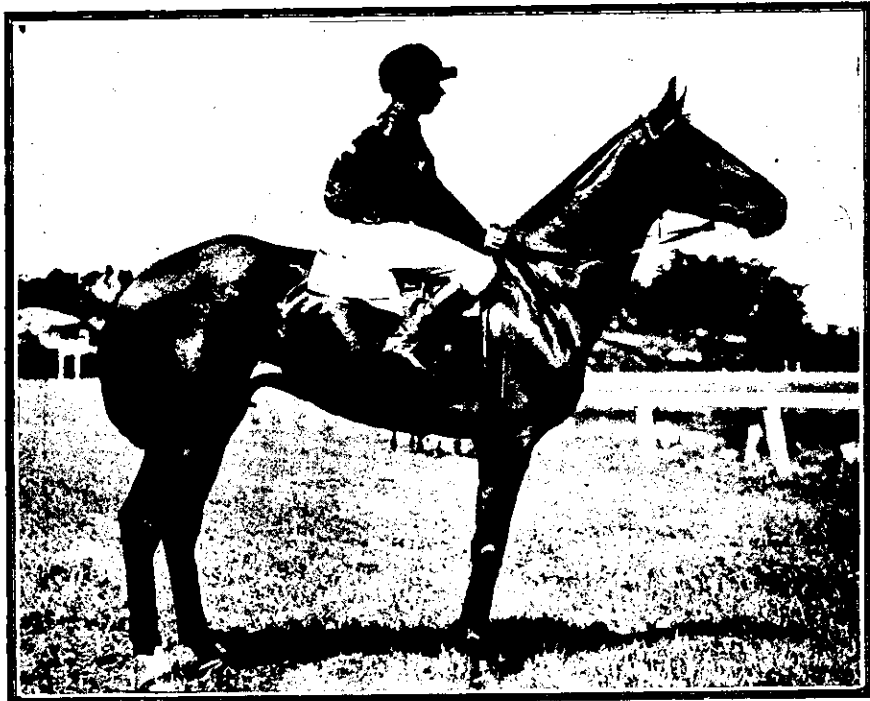
The recently issued Vol V. of the General Stud Book of South Africa includes 671 mares, and of these 329 were bred in England, 304 in South Africa, 15 in South America, 7 in the United States of America, 9 in Australia, 6 in France, and one in New Zealand, says "Pilot," in the "Referee." Of the thoroughbred stallions in South Africa 250 were bred in England, 60 in South Africa, 11 in South America, 10 in the United States, 8 in Australia, and 3 in New Zealand.

The Sydney "Referee" commented on the detention of J. O'Shea in Sydney and said it was hard luck for O'Shea, as he would have had some first-class riding in New Zealand if he had been able to get back to New Zealand for the Christmas and New

such liberty, while regulated by the law of the land, should be exempt from all other interference whatsoever?

King Offa's lameness, despite all veterinary skill, has caused the retirement of that fine horse from the racecourse. He was taken out of his Australian autumn engagements last month.

In England, as in Australia, horses are sold at auction with their engagements, and in the former country this fact has to be kept well in mind by buyers. "Pilot," in the "Referee," thus comments on situations that sometimes come about as a result: English breeders nominate so extensively that in a reference to the sales which took place at Newmarket last December I saw it stated that the minor forfeits for the 57 engagements made for the yearling half brother to Milton totalled £468; the Polymelus—Taslett filly's minor forfeits for 48 races amounted to £398; those of Mons Star to 546 guineas; and Milton's (two-year-old), £587 for 41 races. Minor forfeits for other two-year-olds in Splendid Spur and Nancy Stair totalled £408 and £416 respectively. These forfeits have at times



Mr. J. J. Regan's br g ALL TALK, 5yrs., by All Black—Wordy Warfare. L. Morris in saddle. Trained by A. Julian.



Mrs. Harvey Patterson's ch g TABASCO, 5yrs., by Vasco—Lady Maorina. M. D. O'Shea in saddle. Trained by A. Robertson.

According to present ideas the much-travelled New Zealand mare, Probation, which won a couple of races at the local Christmas meetings, will shortly be sent to Melbourne. There is no doubting her pace, and her connections know how to bet when they fancy her, says a correspondent of the "Referee."

Well Shine (Wolawa—Blacking), who won the Juvenile Handicap at Kembla Grange, Sydney, was bred in New Zealand by Mr. E. J. Watt. She was sold at auction for 155 guineas at the commencement of January, and won at her first start in her new owner's colours.

It was announced in the English press in November that it was the intention of the War Office to take back 125,000 horses from France and Belgium for sale in Great Britain. They were to be sold in batches of 12,500 per week in different centres throughout the country. It would be well if the best of the mares could be used for breeding purposes.

It is understood that the committee of the Wanganui Jockey Club have decided to recommend the club to purchase a site for a racecourse, not with the idea of removing there in the near future, but so as to have a course available when it becomes necessary to shift. The club is believed to have two properties under offer—the Paul Estate (River Bank), and the Gordon Park Property (No. 3 Line).

According to a couple of leading London papers, there is not the least likelihood of the installation of the totalisator (or pari-mutuel) in England. "Pilot," in the "Referee," in noting this item, says it must have been almost as good news for English bookmakers as the signing of the armistice. We might add that all owners are not keen on the introduction of the tote, and that the English Jockey Club cannot be accused of being in league with the bookmakers to keep it out.

The youngsters placed in work at Morphetville include a colt by Comedy King from the New Zealand-bred mare Indian Queen, dam of Maharah, Aborigine, King Billy, Maori King, Our King and Our Queen. Indian Queen was purchased cheaply by a Queensland breeder at the Shipley dispersal sale.

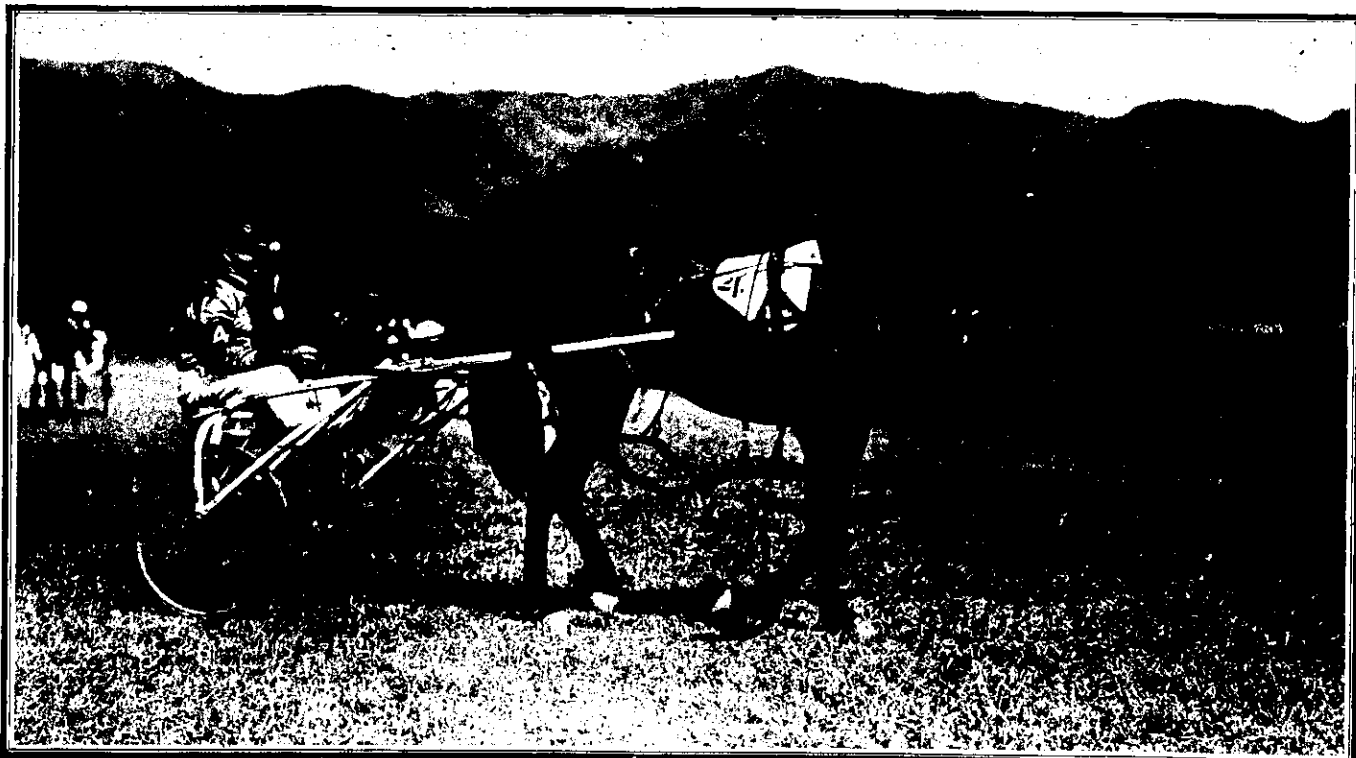
The Liverpool Grand National is to be run again at Aintree this year, and the trainer and rider of the winner will receive a commemorative trophy. The value of the race is to be the same as prior to the war. The last Grand National run at Aintree was when Ally Sloper won in 1915, but in 1916-17-18 there was a substitute race—the War National—run at Gatwick.

Year meetings. His visit to Australia has not given him cause for gratification, though he intends to try his luck there again shortly.

Prior to the recent elections in England the following "test" questions for Parliamentary candidates were adopted by the Association of Racehorse Owners, Breeders and Trainers: (1) Will you consistently support horse racing as it was conducted before the war, in order that British supremacy in the industry of thoroughbred horse breeding may be maintained? (2) Do you agree that people should have liberty in their sports, pastimes and recreations under such rules as are from time to time laid down by those who practically understand the same, and that

brought trouble to buyers, especially after the horses have left England. Occasionally some minor forfeit has been overlooked, and after the horse has been sent to another country it appears in the forfeit list in England. In South Africa there were one or two cases where it was discovered almost at the last moment that horses greatly fancied for big races were, through oversight, in the forfeit list in the Old Country for a small amount, and as a result they had to be withdrawn. It might therefore be as well for Australian buyers to remember that a similar experience for them is possible, if they are not careful.

Despite the restricted number of meetings in England during the past



Mr. J. Coghill's b g PARTNER, by Petereta—Rothschild M., who accounted for the Wellington Handicap (two miles) at the Wellington Trotting Club's annual meeting. J. Fraser, driver.