

# TURF TOPICS

Stefan the Great wrenched a fetlock while running in the Two Thousand Guineas.

J. O'Shea, now in Melbourne, was granted a license to ride on the pony courses by the V.R.C.

Mr. G. D. Greenwood has left for Australia and will be in Melbourne before going through to Sydney.

H. Lorrigan will pilot Multive in the Grand National Hurdle Race, which takes place this Thursday.

Mr. C. R. Caffyn, assistant secretary to the Dunedin Jockey Club, has just returned from active service.

The Lindsay Gordon Steeplechase was won by Mountain God, by Mountain King, at Moonee Valley on July 26.

Booster was one of the fancied horses for the Sydney Metropolitan when the mail left there for New Zealand.

Boys riding work at Ellerslie appear in skull caps now. In future they are to be worn in all races in New Zealand.

Peter the Hermit, half-brother to Demosthenes by St. Petersburg, is standing at Wagga, N.S.W., at a fee of 25 guineas.

B. Deeley, who is at present having a well-earned rest in Gisborne, will probably make the trip to Sydney next month.

R. J. Mason is on the way to Sydney with Mr. G. D. Greenwood's team, consisting of Gloaming, Afterglow, Karo, and Rossini.

Mr. A. C. Hanlon's appointment makes the third president of the Dunedin Jockey Club since the late Sir George McLean was appointed in 1885.

Of visiting trainers in Sydney last year R. J. Mason led with £5411, won by Gloaming; F. Davis, with Mr. T. H. Lowry's team, putting together £3494.

The six-year-old gelding Ahi Ka, by Campfire—Louie, who is owned by Mr. E. J. Nash, of Levin, is now an inmate of E. George's establishment at Awapuni.

Beitane was a press and public selection for the Australian Hurdle Race, in which he finished second after a hard race and with the worst of the weights.

Mr. Henry Hughes, the veteran Adelaide handicapper, celebrated his 81st birthday on July 23. He still enjoys good health, but only rarely attends a meeting.

Word from the south states that the well-known Canterbury trotting enthusiast, Mr. W. Kerr, has disposed of his property, Wildwood Farm, to a retired Southland farmer.

Mr. R. H. Skipwith has been re-appointed starter for the Otaki Maori Racing Club, and his services promise to be in keener demand than ever since his return from the front.

The V.R.C. gave £71,612 in stakes last year, as against £69,112 the preceding year. The profits showed an increase of £2000 last year, notwithstanding a decrease in the autumn of £3760.

The annual report of the Victoria Racing Club shows that the club has given £84,614 to patriotic and war purposes. The last V.R.C. spring meeting returned a profit to the club of £21,802.

Court Jester, by Comedy King from Aleger, won the Glen Oria Handicap, of 300sovs., at Moonee Valley on July 26, carrying topweight, 9.2, covering the mile and a-half in 2min. 34½sec.

When referring to the death of the late Mr. Percy Martin, "Goodwood" mentioned the chief successes of Mr. S. H. Gollan's horses in Australia when trained by the deceased, and recalled a win by Sternchaser at Caulfield in a welter in peculiar circumstances. There were a dozen runners. The barrier for some reason went up on its own accord, and all the horses except Sternchaser ran the full course. The stewards declared it no race, and the horses were ordered back to the post. Originally at 6 to 1, Sternchaser started at 2 to 1 for the race proper, and won by four lengths, Eiridsforde, the original winner, being unplaced.

Biplane is reported to be looking well and doing well at Randwick. Prince Viridis, who was the best of the other Australian three-year-olds when Biplane was in evidence, is also reported to be doing well.

The owner of Biplane and Cetigne has invested lightly on his pair in the Epsom and Metropolitan Handicaps. It is not considered a crime in Australia to bet with the pencilers, though the tote is now in evidence.

Acting on the grounds that the wife of a trainer cannot run a horse, the V.R.C. committee declared the entry of Mrs. G. Chandler's br c Poseur, who had been engaged in a number of two-year-old events, as informal.

Starting with the present month the racing clubs in New South Wales and Victoria have made it compulsory that skull caps of approved design and material must be worn by jockeys in all races at registered meetings held in both States.

At the Rosehill meeting at Sydney on July 19 Amberdown was responsible for a highly creditable performance in the Carlingford Mile, in which he carried the steadier of 11.3 into second place, the winner being Tressfall (8.7). Amberdown was disputing the lead practically all the way, and the opinion was expressed after the race that had the son of Downshire been ridden more patiently in the early stages, he would probably have won.

The Bezonian filly Bo-Peep, who cannot be said to have run up to expectations last season, when she raced as a three-year-old, has again been taken in hand, and may make amends in the future for many of her past failures in events for which she had been well supported.

J. McKechnie, who drove Medium Boy in the Trotters' Handicap at Victoria Park, Sydney, on July 21 last, is 74 years of age. He is a prominent business man and property owner of Newtown, and has been breeding and racing trotters for a lifetime, out of pure love of the game.

Mr. W. G. Stead's three-year-old colt Surveyor, who is a member of the team of seven New Zealanders that will arrive in Sydney by the Niagara this week, claims an engagement in the Victoria Derby, but does not figure among the entrants for the A.J.C. Derby. Last season Mr. G. D. Greenwood's Gloaming accounted for both of these much-coveted blue riband events.

Loyal Arch's withdrawal from the Grand National Hurdle Race came as no surprise to those who had seen her on the tracks at Riccarton, for the leg which she injured as the result of her recent mishap presented an enlarged appearance, which held out little hope of the daughter of Marble Arch seeing out the 2½ miles attached to the principal hurdle event at the C.J.C. National meeting.



FIELD-MARSHAL EARL DOUGLAS HAIG AND GENERAL CLARKE (directly behind Earl Haig) at Hyde Park, London, during the Trooping of the Colour—the principal ceremony in honour of the King's Birthday.

Sir Prim changed hands at auction recently, but remains in P. K. Bradford's care at Caulfield. His new owner got a good run with him in the Australian Steeplechase, in which he was beaten by Algous on Saturday.

At the Adelaide Tattersall's Club meeting recently there were so many entrants for the Handicap Hurdles that it had to be run in two divisions. Fourteen started in the first and 13 in the second, and only two fell out of the 27.

Latest reports from Australia show that Gloaming is a shade better fancied for the Caulfield Cup than Molly's Robe, Amanus and Chrome, while the prospects of Karo, Spanner and Surveyor are held in high esteem for the big mile and a-half event.

Spanner's half-brother by The Sybarite from Dudu has been named Epicure. Other Australian-owned ones with names are the Kilbroney—Flowery Speech colt, who has been called Peroration, and the Kilbroney—Golden Pippin colt Kilpippin.

Mr. G. Hori Karanti has been appointed judge to the Otaki Maori Racing Club, and will officiate in that capacity for the first time at the club's meeting next month. He is said to be the only native racing judge acting in the Dominion.

The ex-Auckland Bingham claims an engagement in the Waverley Handicap (one mile), the principal event to be decided at the Egmont-Wanganui Hunt Club's meeting on the 27th inst.

The Paris paper "Le Jockey" recently stated that India's champion, Dark Legend, was shortly to be sent to France if facilities could be obtained for his embarkation from Bombay on a fast steamer. In the event of early shipment being impossible, he was to fulfil some engagements in India towards the end of this year, and would arrive in France next January.

The Derby course at Epsom Downs was covered by a generous supply of good thick herbage on the eve of the race. Various bookmakers were heavily overlaid against The Panther, and that meant covering money, which in turn meant a shorter price. A layer who finds himself in a tight corner is not helped out by his brother professionals for philanthropic reasons. It is reported that one good judge regarded Grand Parade as unbeaten, and took 8000 to 500 and 2000 to 500 for a place.

A dead-heat for the six furlongs sprint at Moonee Valley, Victoria, provided a run-off with a double change of jockeys. Killorn took the place of Elton on Chal, whilst Dempsey was substituted for Selby on Demonte. The difference in the result was probably due to a slight superiority in stamina on the part of Chal, who got away with the lead both times. In the first struggle Demonte got on terms with the pacemaker and actually pushed his nose in front for an instant, dropping back to level as they passed the post. In the run-off Demonte never quite reached Chal and was beaten by a neck—a short neck at that. Change of jockeys didn't appear to matter twopence.—"Bulletin."

Writing of Sir Prim's V.R.C. Grand National win, "The Australasian" says that possibly Old Mungindi, Doiran, Gladful and Samander would have troubled him had they stood up. Private advice is to the effect that Gladful, whose fourth race it was over country, was hurdling the steeplechase fences and had not hit one, and that he would likely have taken a hand in the settlement of the question with the winner, Sir Prim, who eased up towards the finish. It is thought that the old grey Cobram, the winner last year, would not have got a place.

The executive of the Dunedin Jockey Club, accompanied by the architect and engineer, visited the Wingatui racecourse the other day, and approved of the scheme for a rearrangement of the enclosure whereby the outside stand and grounds will be included in the grandstand enclosure, and the public accommodated at the north end of the course, where a new stand and lawn will be provided. This arrangement will enable both inside and outside patrons to get a view of the horses in the birdcage without going on the racing track. These alterations will take some time to complete, and in the meantime the engineer has been instructed to lay out the grounds and lawn for the new outside enclosure. When this is done tenders will be called for the erection of the stand.

Mr. Ewen W. Alison, jun., left Auckland on a visit to Sydney, where he has two-year-olds purchased at the autumn sales for himself and brother Ernest to bring to New Zealand first available opportunity. He may also try and secure a handicap horse or two when in the Commonwealth.

The Avondale Jockey Club's spring programme appears in this issue. The Cup is now worth 1000sovs. The Stakes and Guineas races, which are forfeit races for two and three-year-olds, and for which there were good nominations, are worth 500sovs. each this year, and are to be increased to 600sovs. each next year. Other races have been increased also in value. As a result of retaining the conditions for some of the races for horses that have not won 250sovs. in one stake or 1000sovs. in the aggregate, the so-called hack races may possibly fill with larger nominations than ever. They would certainly do so were travelling facilities normal. The suggestion that larger prizes should be given for such races, with a fairer distribution of the place money, or even with money for the fourth horse as well, is offered. There are really so many horses in training that have not won a stake of 250sovs. or 1000sovs. in the aggregate, and so many that have not won 200sovs., 150sovs., or even 100sovs. or less. There is certainly a race for those that have never won at all, and a facetious sport the other day remarked that he thought there should be a race for horses which few judges would think capable of winning a race at all. There are certainly some that it looks very long odds against.