



Double event betting is popular all over the world, and some enormous books were open in England in pre-war times. During the war the leading pencilers had to curtail their books; indeed, some of the races over which their operations were formerly very extensive were cut out. One man advertised a £50,000 double on the Cesarewitch, run on October 15, and Cambridgeshire, run on Wednesday, and many in the same line were advertising that they had unlimited books the same way, "no ways barred." This is what will happen if we get the double totalisator. The tote odds layer, as distinct from the bookmaker, will go on laying with a limit to his liability. The bookmaker, who has been doing business to set figures, will take only such business as will suit his book. It has been said that somewhere about £10,000 or perhaps a little more can be won over the New Zealand Cup and Stewards' Handicap double from the whole force of bookmakers in the Dominion worth considering from the backers' point of view. At one time that amount could have been won straight-out over the New Zealand Cup, and nearly, if not quite so much, over the Dunedin Cup when that race was the chief betting one in New Zealand. The many totalisator workers who have taken the place of the few pencilers who took weeks and weeks getting their betting volumes filled, handle in a few minutes larger and nearly as large sums on the same and other races, on some of which only a comparatively little money goes on, at tote odds.

In England where there are £50,000 books at the end of a racing season, there are some people trying all they can to get the totalisator in, and various ways are being suggested whereby the bookmakers may be beaten by betting, while the racing authorities are slow to take up the cry for the introduction of the automaton, which it was said was introduced into New Zealand to kill the bookmaker stone dead. One of the staunchest advocates of the introduction of the totalisator in New South Wales to the exclusion of the pencilers has lately been less pronounced in his views on the question, and has discovered that there is no prospect of the pencilers being excluded at Randwick, because there is no room to erect sufficient totalisator accommodation there for all the people. It is a wonder that the bookmaker and tote odds layer has not gone under long ago were one thinks of all the hard heads that are at work to beat him, most of them by fair means, some with doubtful systems, and a few by trickery and despicable methods, which rarely succeed. It is not every man that can make a book, but anyone can lay the same odds that the co-operative system provides, and there is a big temptation with such a large percentage taken out of each pound for people to lay machine odds and limit their risk to paying out up to a stipulated amount only.

The surprise felt in the colonies at the extraordinary prices realised for best of the yearlings, or the presumed best, at the Doncaster sales, has not been confined to the colonies. In England the papers have been commenting on the fact. One writer asks: Were the prices really so very extraordinary when one considers the comparative value of the pound to-day and in pre-war times? That is certainly one way of looking at the matter. The beef grower gets between two and three times as much as he did for his bullocks, but while the war was on the sales at Home were seriously affected, and now it would seem that there is a lot of money for sport, wherever it comes from. Many people are coming into the racing area with lots of wealth behind them, and are determined to spend some of it freely over the favourite pastime.

The English racing season will be over next month, but all the big races will be done with this week. The long established Cambridgeshire Stakes was fixed for Wednesday, the distance being nine furlongs and the weights ranging from 9.13 on Irish Elegance (top weight) down to 6.0 on some ten, including three, four, five and six-year-olds. When the mail left, Zinovia (last year's winner) was being backed. A correspondent, who is having a spell in the Old Land on his native heath after being a regular traveller between England and New Zealand for some years and who takes a keen interest in English racing, has mentioned the names of several of the fancied ones: Snow Maiden (7.7), a three-year-old, My Dear (9.2), second top weight, four years, and Zinovia (8.11). Day Comet's brother, Planet, who picked up a race on August 29, ran second on September 2 in another and won again on September 13, figures in the list with 8.0. Mention of Day Comet and his



Mr. G. D. Greenwood's champion Australasian gelding GLOAMING (B. Deeley) returning to scale after his meritorious win in the Craven Plate (1¼ miles) on the third day of the Australian J.C.'s spring meeting.

brother, Planet, reminds us that their three-year-old half brother, Violincello, who has won about £2600 in stakes, won the Pevril of the Peak Handicap, over a mile, at Derby, on September 4, the race being worth £897. Violincello, who is by Valens (some of whose progeny have reached the colonies), was a 25 to 1 chance, and won by three-parts of a length. He beat the five-year-old Brigand and the four-year-old Quadrille, from each of which he received 5lb., and had My Dear (top weight) and four others behind him. Allowing he keeps sound Violincello may still further add to the reputation of his dam (Catgut) as a winner producer.

Bore has rejoined F. D. Jones' team at Riccarton, and will be prepared for hurdle races later in the season.

H. Mouldy, who was formerly associated with the training of Mr. G. Craw's horses at Linton, has set up as a public trainer at Palmerston North. He has taken the stables formerly occupied by J. Hathaway, and already he has a couple of very promising trotters in training, including Master Richmond, a bay colt by Havoc from Lady Richmond, which on breeding should turn out useful.

Mr. Isitt, M.P., has been writing to some of the daily papers in reference to the words he gave utterance to in the heat of debate in the House, which were generally accepted as a condemnation of the race-going public of the Dominion. The Christchurch member has had time to reflect, and has asked us to believe that he expressed himself clumsily, and, in other words, did not intend his remarks to have an all-round application. He, indeed, now goes so far as to say that he has no doubt scores of better men than himself patronise the racecourse, and he goes on to say that he knows there are many honest owners, trainers and jockeys who are superior to "the special and fierce temptations" inseparable from racing as at present conducted. The racecourse, then, is not "the nest of blackguards" it was painted, and, indeed, while "scores of better men" than Mr. Isitt—to use his own words—continue to lend it their support and countenance, there is some hope for its patrons. If Mr. Isitt would only

for the purchase of imported sires and dams, "thereby doing more for the improvement of roadsters and cavalry remounts than millions spent in racing." We hope he will be found urging this view on the Government, who have some £20,000, voted since 1914 for the purpose. Of course he won't mind.

The Auckland Trotting Club opened the new season with a splendid meeting financially, and one on both days of which there were some very keen contests, a dead-heat, half a head, a head and a neck were amongst the judge's verdicts. As long as there is trotting, pacing and racing of any kind we shall have people on and off the courses giving expression to opinions that this or that race was not run on its merits, and occasionally we notice horses being driven or ridden in such a way as to suggest that we have not seen the best of them and that we may not have long to wait for the change. The adverse opinions are very often very wrong ones, and do an injustice to innocent people. It is fortunate that there are so many good judges amongst the people who enjoy trotting and pacing who know when they are fairly and squarely dealt with. There was only one jarring note in connection with the meeting referred to so far as the public were concerned. A pure accident occurred in the straight, or at the end of the stewards' stand, and most people following the race could see this. When the race was over and the horses were coming back to the saddling paddock sections of the crowd commenced a demonstration against McKendrick, the driver of Kewpie, the third favourite. It was clearly the money on the better backed one that followed immediately behind McKendrick's mare that was causing the feeling. It was such a clear case to those who were close to the spot that it was certain that the stewards would deal with the matter without any suggestion from the crowd. It was quite expected that Kewpie would lose the race, although it was possible, indeed probable, that she might have beaten Te Awa had the interference not occurred at all. Still, there was a doubt, and the stewards did the right thing to award the race to Te Awa. The question as to whether they did the right thing by McKendrick and his mare and the public who backed Kewpie in placing that mare last can be legitimately asked. She did not interfere or cause interference with anything else in the race, and in our opinion should have been placed second. The public in this instance suffered through the mare Kewpie being hard to keep straight. It is fortunate the interference did not take a more serious form. But the thinking public will acquit McKendrick of any intention of doing wrong and give him credit for trying to avoid the accident that occurred. He is to be sympathised with over his bad luck. It is well that some of the people who witnessed the occurrence were not stipendiary stewards, as, judging from what they had to say about the matter, if they had had to deal with the case McKendrick would have been disqualified for a term. Before to-day we have seen horses bore in and cause the wheels of the sulkies they have been pulling to strike the rails at or near the same place with no horses near them. The drivers have not been admonished for carelessness under such circumstances. They avoid such happenings as far as possible and well know the attendant dangers they run of injury to themselves or causing injuries to others by not observing the rules of the track.

The New Zealand Trotting Cup candidate, Willie Lincoln, has developed an enlarged knee, and doubts are entertained as to his prospects of starting in the big two-mile race at Addington on November 11. His stable mate, Erin's Queen, is reported to be going particularly well, and should make a bold bid for victory in the New Zealand Trotting Cup.