

## TURF TOPICS.

Final payments are due to-morrow (Friday) in connection with the Great Northern Hurdles.

Owners are reminded that acceptances are due to-morrow evening for the handicap events to be decided on the first day of the A.R.C. winter meeting, and also the Hunt Club Cup to be run on the third day.

J. Delaney, who used to ride the Karamu jumpers until a couple of seasons ago, is back in New Zealand, after a stay of some months in Australia.

The racehorse Hesperus, by Stepniak—Fair Nell, bred in New Zealand, which has been racing in Tasmania for some time past, has been sent to Melbourne, and will go on to India. Hesperus was a poor performer last season, for out of thirteen starts he only won one race and a half.

The programme for the August meeting of the N.Z. Metropolitan Trotting Club provides for stakes for three days' racing amounting to £3500, or more than £500 over what was distributed last year.

Frank Flynn will be riding the favourite double at Wanganui—The Native and Whakaweira. Corazon and Appin, last year's winners, were both ridden by J. Hercock.

Kopu is still one of the drone brigade at Hastings.

We have not seen anything of Formby for some time, but he has been nominated for the Cornwall and Prince of Wales Handicaps and the York Welter, to be run at the Ellerslie meeting next month. Miscout and Bollin, who hail from the Karamu stable, have also been nominated.

Napper, who claims engagements in the Great Northern Hurdles and Steeplechase, is due to arrive at Ellerslie this week. From all accounts the Hon. J. D. Ormond's representative is in the pink of condition and will start one of the best backed horses in the G.N. Hurdles. Whether he will be good enough to capture the double is problematic, but evidently the intention is to give him the opportunity of equalling Liberator's great feat.

It is evident that the two Bezonian youngster in the Endeavour Lodge stables have impressed J. W. Lowe, as he has made arrangements to send his own mare Effort on a visit to the imported English horse, says the "Dominion." Those who have had experience with the Bezonian youngsters state that there is a good future before them as they all seem to have good constitutions, and can gallop. The colt from Miss Phyllis, which was purchased at the Waikanae sale, is losing the coarseness which featured him six months ago, and the Chainstitch filly is doing extremely well.

The Northern Wairoa Racing Club held a general meeting last week at which the secretary reported that the trustees had completed the purchase of a course embracing 122 acres at Awakino Point. The club is desirous of holding a meeting on Boxing Day if a permit for such can be obtained. The new course is some two miles distant from the centre of Dargaville, and possesses unique features for an excellent view of racing. The purchase price was £1000, and the club intends to beautify the property and in time to form a park suitable for the holding of all outdoor sports. A fine class of horse is being freely bred throughout the district, and if no setback is experienced from the racing authorities the reorganised club should quickly take its place again in the ranks of progressive country turf associations. With the assistance of the Auckland Racing Club the stewards hope to make the Dargaville meetings profitable and enjoyable to the whole northern community and of distinct benefit to horse-breeders throughout the peninsula. The purchase money for the newly-acquired property is being freely raised by debentures.

The Spaniard, who is engaged in the Wanganui Steeplechase, is a half-brother to Whakaweira, who is engaged in the same race. The Torpedo gelding, was twice placed in hunters' races at the Grand National meeting two years ago.

No previous winners of the Wanganui Steeplechase are engaged in this year's race, nor are any of the horses which competed in the event twelve months ago among the acceptors this year.

Reumar, Captain Bell, and Blakeney have been entered at the Rosehill (Sydney) meeting next Saturday.

land-owned horses that have gone South to fulfil engagements at Wanganui.

Whakaweira has during the last week been strongly supported for his chances in both the Wanganui and Great Northern Steeplechases. This apparently indicates that the Pilgrim Progress gelding is evidently considered to be a stayer, because he has been scratched for his hurdle engagements, despite the ability he showed over the battens. There is no question of his being able to jump.

Dr. Ring operated on the hurdle horse Sabre last week for throat troubles.

The New Zealand Grand National Steeplechase this year will be worth 1400 sovs., which makes it the most valuable jumping race in the Dominion. The Grand National Hurdles is worth 1000 sovs.

Southern papers state that an influential syndicate of sportsmen contemplate taking up racing in a big way next season.

Kopane, a recent recruit to the ranks of jumpers, is making satisfactory progress in his schooling at Ellerslie.

"Mr H. Whitney" will be represented at Ellerslie next month by Naumai and Odessa.

Patea sporting folk are hoping to have their license to race renewed by the Minister of Internal Affairs. It will be remembered the club was refused a permit this season as a result of the Racing Commissioners' recommendations. Nevertheless the club held a meeting at Easter without a totalisator, which resulted in a loss of close on £200. The meetings hitherto held have always been well conducted.



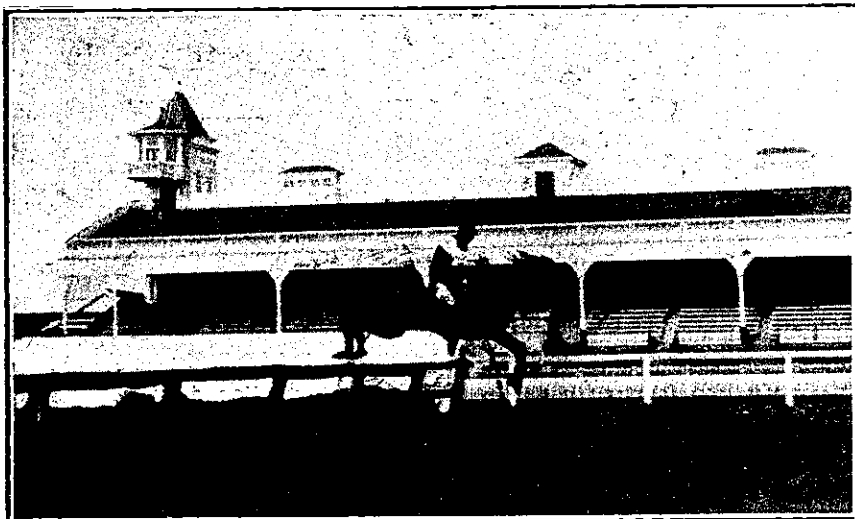
A NOTED GISBORNE STALLION.—Mr Gain-Carrington's ch h GAZELEY, by Grey Leg—Lygia.

The interests of sportsmen are at present centred in the Wanganui meeting, as the results of the racing there will have an appreciable bearing on the Ellerslie Steeplechase meeting next month. Although Auckland is left without a representative in the Century Hurdles, there are a number of Northern candidates competing in other events. Chief amongst these is Antarctic in the Wanganui Steeplechase. The Salvadan gelding holds pride of place in the weights for the crosscountry race with 12st 3lb, and his connection are very sanguine of his success, although he has to meet some strong opposition. Continuance with 12st is somewhat of an unknown quantity over big country, but his high reputation as a hurdlor and weight carrier will, no doubt, secure strong support for the Gisborne champion. Okaiha and Taiaha are also in the Steeple to defend the honour of the north, and judging from the reports to hand they will not start without being fairly backed. Hautere and Sphinx are two other Auck-

It is semi-officially stated by Lord Villiers, one of the stewards of the English Jockey Club, that half-mile races for two-year-olds are shortly to be eliminated from the sport of horse racing in England.

Mr D. Buick, M.P., who recently intimated his intention of retiring from the list of owners, now states that he had taken his son into partnership in the racing business. Godsley is to be raced at Otaki, after which the gelding will be spelled until the spring, when all the other horses will be put into work. Mr Buick, jun., has had considerable experience with horses.

Paritutu, who arrived early at headquarters, is doing excellent work in his preparation for engagements next month at Ellerslie. The Castor gelding is evidently in keen demand for both the Great Northern Hurdles and Steeplechase and there are not a few who consider he is capable of carrying off both events.



PARITUTU (V. Coleman), a much-fancied Great Northern Steeplechase candidate, jumping the post and rails at Ellerslie on Saturday morning.

The New Zealand Sports' Protection League has recently been organising new branches in the King Country and Waikato. At Te Kuiti a strong committee has been set up, and members have been joining in large numbers. At Hamilton this month the organising secretary (Mr A. A. Paape) met with a splendid reception, when a large and representative gathering of sportsmen, under the presidency of Mr J. A. Young, M.P., decided to form a branch to forward the movement.

The election of officers resulted:—President, Mr J. A. Young, M.P.; vice-presidents, Messrs H. Gillies (golf), E. H. Northcroft (hockey), M. Dark (bowling), J. E. Hammond (Rugby football), F. Jones (running), G. Cork (swimming), M. McArthur (boxing), H. Tristram (trotting), A. Swarbrick (rowing), F. C. Hand (coursing), C. L. Innes (Northern Union football), E. Goodwin (dog trials), Fabling (tennis), W. I. Conram (racing), with power to add to their number, with a view to getting cricket, association, athletics, polo, hunting, and angling represented. Committee of five: Messrs C. J. Potts, R. English, H. Smith, F. C. Daniells, and Chas. Speight; secretary pro. tem., Mr M. Dark.

It is stated that after finishing his engagements at Wanganui and Ellerslie the crack hurdlor Continuance is to go to Australia. Should the Sabretache gelding make the trip he ought to do well, judging from the success attending Pakau's efforts, for the later was very moderate when racing here, while Continuance is a really good one.

Just now a matter that is troubling the race clubs a lot in Germany is the licensing of bookmakers on the various race tracks. They have the totalisator there, and also an act prohibiting betting. In a recent exchange it is stated that:—"According to police reports, clandestine betting is more extensively resorted to in Germany than elsewhere. There is not