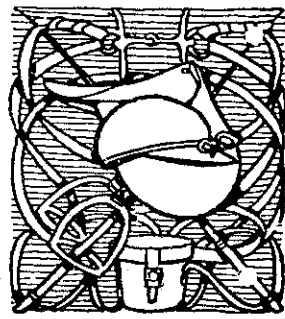


RACING NEWS

C. KINGSLEY SMITH



RACING FIXTURES, 1920-21.

Jan. 20, 22, 24—Wellington R.C.
 Jan. 22, 23—Foxton R.C.
 Jan. 24—Kawakawa R.C.
 Jan. 29—Pahiatua R.C.
 Jan. 29, 31—Takapuna J.C.
 Jan. 31—Canterbury J.C.
 Feb. 4, 5—Taranaki J.C.
 Feb. 5, 7—Gisborne R.C.
 Feb. 5—Tapanui R.C.
 Feb. 7, 9—Hamilton R.C.
 Feb. 11, 12—Egmont R.C.
 Feb. 11, 14—Dunedin J.C.
 Feb. 12, 14—Poverty Bay Turf Club
 Feb. 13—Opotiki J.C.
 Feb. 14—Te Kuiti R.C.

EVENTS REQUIRING ATTENTION.

Wednesday, January 21.

Weights second day Wellington R.C. summer, in morning papers.
 Acceptances second day Wellington R.C. summer, at 12.30 p.m.

Friday, January 23.

Weights third day Wellington R.C. summer, in morning papers.
 Acceptances third day Wellington R.C. summer, at 12.30 p.m.
 Nominations Poverty Bay Turf Club's summer, at 8 p.m.
 Nominations Egmont R.C. summer, at 8 p.m.
 Acceptances first day Takapuna J.C. summer, at 8 p.m.
 Second forfeits Egmont Stakes (1920) and Hawera Stakes (1920).

Saturday, January 24.

Handicaps first day Gisborne R.C. summer.

Friday, January 30.

Acceptances first day Gisborne R.C. summer, at 8 p.m.
 Nominations Wanganui J.C. autumn, at 8 p.m., also second forfeit Jackson Stakes (1920).
 Weights second day Takapuna J.C. summer, in morning paper.
 Acceptances second day Takapuna J.C. summer, at 12 noon.

Monday, February 2.

Weights first day Hamilton R.C. annual.

Tuesday, February 3.

Acceptances first day Hamilton R.C. annual, at 8 p.m.

Thursday, February 5.

Weights second day Gisborne R.C. summer, at 8.30 p.m.
 Acceptances second day Gisborne R.C. summer, at 9.30 p.m.

Friday, February 6.

Weights first day Egmont R.C. summer, on or about.

Saturday, February 7.

Weights second day Hamilton R.C. annual, at 8 p.m.
 Acceptances second day Hamilton R.C. annual, at 9 p.m.
 Acceptances first day Egmont R.C. summer, at 8 p.m., also subscription Egmont Stakes (1920) and Hawera Stakes (1920).

POVERTY BAY RACING AND TROTTING CARNIVAL.

Next month will see Gisborne the centre of attraction with turf followers, five days racing being due to take place in the coastal town during the first half of February. The forthcoming carnival constitutes the most important held in the Poverty Bay province during the year, two cups being set down for decision—the Gisborne Cup Handicap and the Poverty Bay Trotting Cup Handicap—in addition to several other notable handicap events. Judging by the keen interest which is being displayed in regard to the respective fixtures of the Gisborne Racing Club, Poverty Bay Turf Club and the Poverty Bay Trotting Club a record number of visitors can be confidently anticipated at next month's gathering at Gisborne. The excellent entries received by the secretary (Mr. H. E. Dodd) on Friday evening last for the Gisborne Racing Club's summer meeting may be taken as an indication that the fields to be seen out at the respective gatherings will prove well up to expectations, both in size and calibre, and the racing on the East Coast next month gives promise of being exceedingly interesting and enjoyable. Nominations for the Poverty Bay Turf Club's summer meeting and for the Poverty Bay Trotting Club's annual gathering are due on Friday evening next (January 23), at 8 p.m., when an excellent response from owners may be regarded as certain.

Next month's carnival at Gisborne will open on Thursday, February 5, with the Gisborne Racing Club's meeting, which will be brought to a conclusion on the following Saturday (February 7). On the opening day the Gisborne Cup Handicap of 500 sovs (450sovs in specie and a cup valued at 50 guineas), one mile and

a-quarter, will form the chief attraction, while next in point of interest comes the Wi Pere Memorial Handicap of 250sovs, six furlongs. On the second day the Gisborne Racing Club Handicap of 300sovs, one mile will claim principal attention, while the open sprint events consist of the Flying Handicap of 200sovs, six furlongs, and the Final Handicap of 160sovs, seven furlongs.

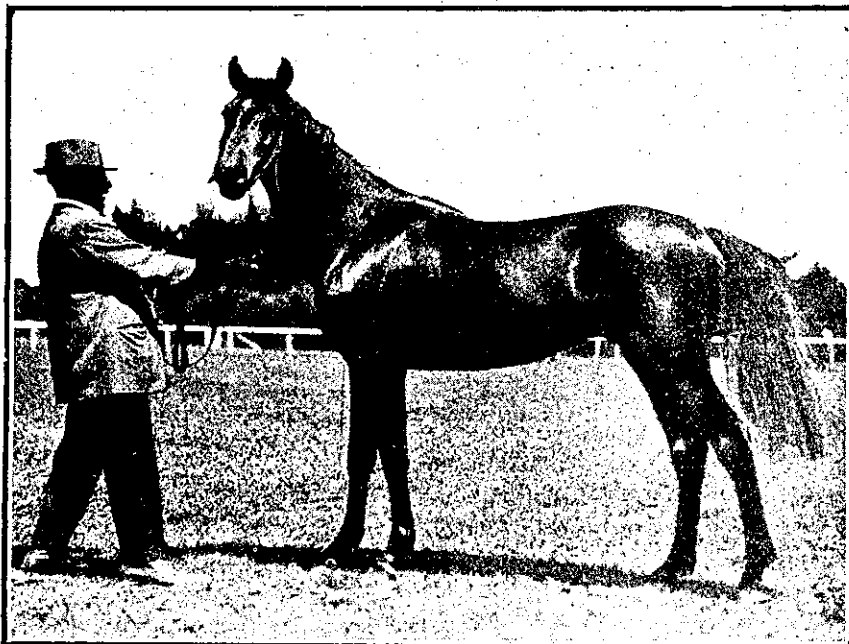
On Thursday, February 12, the Poverty Bay Turf Club will make a start with their summer meeting on the Makaraka racecourse, and will conclude their fixture on the following Saturday (February 14). The leading event on the first day will be the Turanga Stakes Handicap of 400sovs, one mile and a-quarter, while the principal short races are the Telephone Handicap of 200sovs, five furlongs, and the Flying Handicap of 200sovs, six furlongs. On the second day the Sunderland Stakes Handicap of 300sovs, one mile, will come up for decision, while the Publicans' Purse Handicap of 200sovs, five furlongs, and the Farewell Handicap of 150sovs, six furlongs and a-half, are

WAIPA RACING CLUB.

ANNUAL GATHERING.

A reminder to owners and trainers may be necessary to the effect that nominations for all events to be run at the Waipa Racing Club's annual meeting, at Te Awamutu, on Saturday, February 21, are due with the secretary, Mr. J. G. Wynyard, Te Awamutu, on Tuesday, February 3, at 9 p.m., or with Messrs. Blomfield and Co., High Street, Auckland. This country racing fixture has since its inception always constituted a popular attraction with racegoers, and with their splendid course and up-to-date appointments the club can look forward with every confidence to a large share of patronage from racehorse owners.

The principal event is the Te Awamutu Cup Handicap of 240sovs, one mile and a-quarter, which should attract a record entry. The Flying Handicap of 160sovs, six furlongs, and the Ohaupo Handicap of 140sovs, seven furlongs, can be relied upon to attract a good class of sprinter,



A PROMISING TARANAKI COLT.—Mr. C. F. Ruscoe's two-year-old colt, RAPID FIRE, by Campfire—La Milo, who is shortly to enter the racing ranks. Mr. Ruscoe is seen holding the reins.

both certain to attract fields of more than average size and quality. A hurdle race is provided on each of the four days at Te Hapara and Makaraka respectively, which fact should prove a strong incentive to owners and trainers of jumpers to take their charges to Gisborne next month.

The intervening day (Friday) between the Poverty Bay Turf Club's meeting will witness the Poverty Bay Trotting Club's annual meeting, on the Gisborne Racing Club's course at Te Hapara. In addition to the Poverty Bay Trotting Cup Handicap (harness) of 350sovs (250sovs in specie and a cup valued at 100sovs), two miles, a number of other well-endowed events will receive attention, and there is good reason to believe that supporters of light harness racing will accord the club a wide measure of patronage on Friday next (January 23), on which date nominations must be made to the secretary, Mr. H. E. Dodd.

The gold-mounted whip presented to J. Conquest by the Rotorua Jockey Club was in recognition of his having won six races at the club's meeting in 1917. The whip had been hanging in the secretary's office awaiting the revisit of that horseman to the district. Conquest's achievement was that he rode in the eight flat races, won six, was second in another and on the back of another unplaced. There were four consecutive wins. The horses he won on were: St. Carl, Last Call (twice), Fionnuala, Regio, and Sleepy Jack, a second on Lady Glen and unplaced on Marble Star. At the meeting last week a second on Lady Energy in the Cup, two thirds on Monocrat and unplaced performances on others were registered by Conquest.

while the Pirongia Handicap Hurdles of 125sovs, one mile and a-half (hack conditions), offers special opportunities to the hurdle division, which should be strongly represented at the fixture. The other events on the programme are the Waipa Maiden Handicap of 80sovs, five furlongs, for horses that have never won a stake of 50sovs or over at time of entry; Kihikihi Handicap of 120sovs, five furlongs; Orakau Hack Handicap of 80sovs, six furlongs, for horses that have not won a flat race of the value of 150sovs, or races of the collective value of 400sovs at time of entry; and the Paterangi Welter of 120sovs, one mile, minimum weight 7.7.

A SENSATIONAL RACE.

THE DERBY CUP IN ENGLAND.

The Derby Cup, run in November last, created a bit of a sensation. Sir Abe Bailey's Alasnam, a three-year-old, with 6.10, won by a head from Lord Zetland's aged Kroo Boy II. (7.6), a 20 to 1 chance, with Planet (8.3), full brother to Day Comet (whose foals are well spoken of in the Waikato), three-parts of a length away third. Alasnam was thought unbeatable, though he had been defeated in the Newmarket Handicap and Liverpool Cup previously, and excuses had been offered for him and seemingly legitimate ones, but it was thought that he was beaten on his merits after the fright his backers got in the Derby Cup. He started at six to five, and was regarded as the greatest handicap certainty of the season, even money being taken in some instances. "Robin Goodfellow," well known to overseas "Daily Mail" readers," thus refers to the event:

Talk about thrills! We had one in the Derby Cup that, if it could be reproduced with the same live atmosphere, would make the fortune of any film. Nervous punters after the race protested that such an apology for odds should be accompanied by a guarantee against suspense. Of course, a horse may break his neck, or be "down the course," or beaten without being disgraced. But if he wins it ought to be decisively, with nothing to bother him in the last furlong, so that his gratified backers may drop their glasses and watch him home in perfect serenity of mind. "I didn't take six to five as an invitation to apoplexy," said a man of this temperament. It certainly was a tense moment.

Alasnam went to the post deeply in Sir Abe Bailey's debt. His victory got back some of the South African magnate's losses, but a burden of indebtedness must still remain, for no great amount was to be won at the prices without reckless plunging, and of this we had no evidence. The Midshipmite made it a fast-run race. Alasnam came to the first turn hemmed in on the rails, which perhaps was fortunate for him, as it made a swing out impossible. He was always about fourth as they tore along the far side. Planet figured among the second lot, and was plainly being restrained for a dash later. His jockey had instructions to get first run on Alasnam in the pelt for home, and Robbins carried them out all right, though it struck me that he rushed Planet through his field a little impetuously coming round the second and last turn. But he secured that desired first run all right, and incidentally compelled Alasnam to come up on the outside. All this time The Midshipmite was hanging on well, but when tackled by Alasnam half-way down the straight he weakened, and it was the same with Planet, although Mr. Barclay's natty horse stayed on to earn third prize and save the place money.

Alasnam bowled along and appeared to be out of all danger, when the almost miraculous occurred. Kroo Boy II. came from next to nowhere like a shot from a gun, flashed past Planet and The Midshipmite, and brought the hearts of the plungers on Alasnam into their mouths. It was a remarkable burst of speed, and quite out of keeping with Kroo Boy II.'s reputation as a plodder with only one pace, and that nothing to brag about. Where he got it from was a mystery. Anxious eyes were directed on the judge's box. Alasnam's friends believed it was all right, and most devoutly hoped so, but many of them suffered violent palpitation before his number went up. And, as remarked above, one stride more would have worked his downfall.

WINNING LIST IN ENGLAND.

Lord Glanely tops the list of winning owners for the racing season recently closed in England with just over £30,000, Lord Derby coming second with about £23,000, and Major D. McCalmont third with about £14,000. Of the major's total no less than £10,951 was contributed by the unbeaten Tetratema. Messrs. J. White and S. Joel and Sir Edward Hulton are the only other owners with five-figure totals.

His Majesty is low in the list with £4171, secured by six horses, who between them won eight races.

Chief training honours go to A. Taylor, G. Lambton, and Barling.

Donoghue heads the jockey table with 129 wins, but the best averages were made by A. Smith and Carslake. Carslake rode 106 winners and shows an average of nearly 1 in 3. That of A. Smith is about the same, and it is many years since any jockey returned such a high percentage of wins. In the case of Carslake it is the more remarkable because he cannot scale under 8st. 4lb. V. Smyth, with 88 winners, and Whalley, with 80, are third and fourth in the list.

North Loburn won a double at the Northern Wairoa meeting on Saturday.