

TURF GOSSIP.

The imported English horse, Arrow-smith, figures among the nominations for the sprint events to be run at the Dunedin Jockey Club's forthcoming meeting.

The death of the six-year-old mare, Belair (Hymettus—Enyo), is reported. The mare, who had been on the sick list for some time, got a leg hung up in a fence, and, being too weak to extricate it, got down in the ditch and died. She was trained by J. McCombe, and raced in the joint interests of Messrs. McCombe and Griffen.

The triple dead-heat in the Ruapehu Handicap (six furlongs), the concluding event on the opening day of the Wellington Racing Club's summer meeting at Trentham, when Nursing Sister, Hepta and Borealis finished in line, the judge being unable to separate them, was made all the more remarkable by the fact that the two first-named were both outsiders in the 17-horse field, while Borealis ruled third favourite. The dividends in all three cases were of a sufficiently remunerative character to place backers of the trio on good terms with themselves, even Borealis returning a handsome price.

After declaration of the first forfeit, the following remain in the Champagne Stakes, of 500sovs (six furlongs), to be run on the opening day of the Dunedin Jockey Club's autumn meeting, which takes place on February 11 and 14:—R. Rewcastle's ch f Ruena, by Solferino—Ruenalf's Daughter; C. Hazlett's b g Windermere, by Sunny Lake—Angele; Sir G. Clifford's br f Moorfowl, by Autumnus—Kirriemuir; Sir G. Clifford's br c Winter Wind, by Antagonist—Wind Whistle; H. H. Fisher's b f Bebehead, by Birkenhead—Bebe; C. G. Dalgety's ch f Reproachful, by Bonny Glen—Lady Disdain; W. Stone's b f Mantua, by Solferino—Rose Salterne; W. A. Nicholls' br g Brown Willey, by Masterpiece—Avarice; R. C. Gillies' ch f Sunshower, by Sunny Lake—Polliwog; E. Russell's b g Listening Post, by Solferino—Eager Eyes.

Double winners at Rotorua were Queen Abbey and Miss Leslie. The last-named was raised 14lb. for her Maiden Handicap victory, and won the Mokoia Handicap (a welter), with 9.10 in the saddle. Queen Abbey was raised 19lb. for her Rotorua Cup success, and that did not stop her from winning the Farewell Handicap with 10.1 up. The minimum weight in each case was 7.0.

Two generals were in evidence as winners at the Northern Wairoa meeting. General Stephen and General Joffre, both by General Latour, whose half sister, Merry Nell (by Marble Arch), won the Railway Handicap at the same fixture, which serves to remind us that the Northern Wairoa Racing Club have reason to be satisfied with the purchase of Marble Arch, whose stock keep winning at meetings all round.

Highly pleasing nominations have been received for the Dunedin J.C.'s autumn meeting, which is to take place at Wingatui on February 11 and 14. Seventeen horses have been nominated for the Dunedin Cup, of 1500sovs, one mile and a-half, including the North Islanders, Affectation, Kilrush, Mascot, Rose Wreath and Rose Pink. The Foxton-owned Amythas, winner of the two principal handicaps at the Dunedin summer meeting, also the Invercargill Cup and Wellington Racing Club Handicap, who is trained at Riccarton for Mr. F. S. Easton, also figures in the list of Dunedin Cup entries.

Waima (not Waimai), ridden by S. Henderson, paid the largest dividend received this season per medium of the tote in the Auckland province, when he won the County Handicap at the Kawakawa meeting. S. Henderson was on Some Boy II, when that fine horse paid over half a century at Avondale when he won the Plump-ton Handicap from end to end.

"Melos" in the "Bulletin" thus writes: It was by a mere accident that Yattendon, prince of stallions, was saved from an early end. When a few days old the illustrious youngster fell into a hole in the paddock at Ramornie station, Clarence River (N.S.W.), and was on the verge of finish when he was discovered. Had he snuffed it the turf would not have had Chester, Grand Flaneur, Calma, Cliveden and other topnotchers.

Mr. R. H. Skipwith has been reappointed starter for the Dannevirke Racing Club's autumn meeting. He has also been appointed to act at the Poverty Bay Turf Club's summer meeting, owing to Mr. A. G. Wood being engaged at Dunedin.

It was recently found necessary to make a rearrangement of the dates on which the respective meetings of the Thames Jockey Club and Ohinemuri Jockey Club are to be held. The Thames fixture will take place on March 6 and 8, while the Ohinemuri gathering will be held on March 17 and 20.

During a visit to Levin about the middle of the present month, the Prime Minister (Hon. W. F. Massey) received a deputation on behalf of local sportsmen, Messrs. J. and A. McLeavey, C. Blenkhorn and J. Proctor, who stated that the township was desirous of securing an additional race day. The Premier promised to favourably consider the matter.

Statuette, who brought off the biggest surprise at the Wellington Racing Club's summer meeting, when, on the opening day, she defeated a strong field in the Telegraph Handicap (six furlongs), returning her supporters a dividend of over half a century, is a four-year-old filly by Marble Arch—Seatonella, and is thus a full sister to Sir Samuel Hordern's crack performer, Arch Marella, winner of many important events in Australia. Statuette is owned by Mr. G. D. Beatson, well known as the owner of Parisian Diamond, and is trained by Sid. Reid. Statuette was one of the early fancies for the last Railway Handicap at Ellerslie, but through an oversight she was not accepted for in that event, her defection proving costly to early double backers.

CONTROL OF ENGLISH RACING.

Many Australians still in this country, remnants of the A.I.F., are among my correspondents on the subject of English racing, and with hardly an exception they criticise its management and cost (says an English writer). Widespread interest, not un-mixed with perturbation, must follow the news that the Jockey Club is shortly to review the whole question of its control over racecourse receipts. If the stewards are sincere

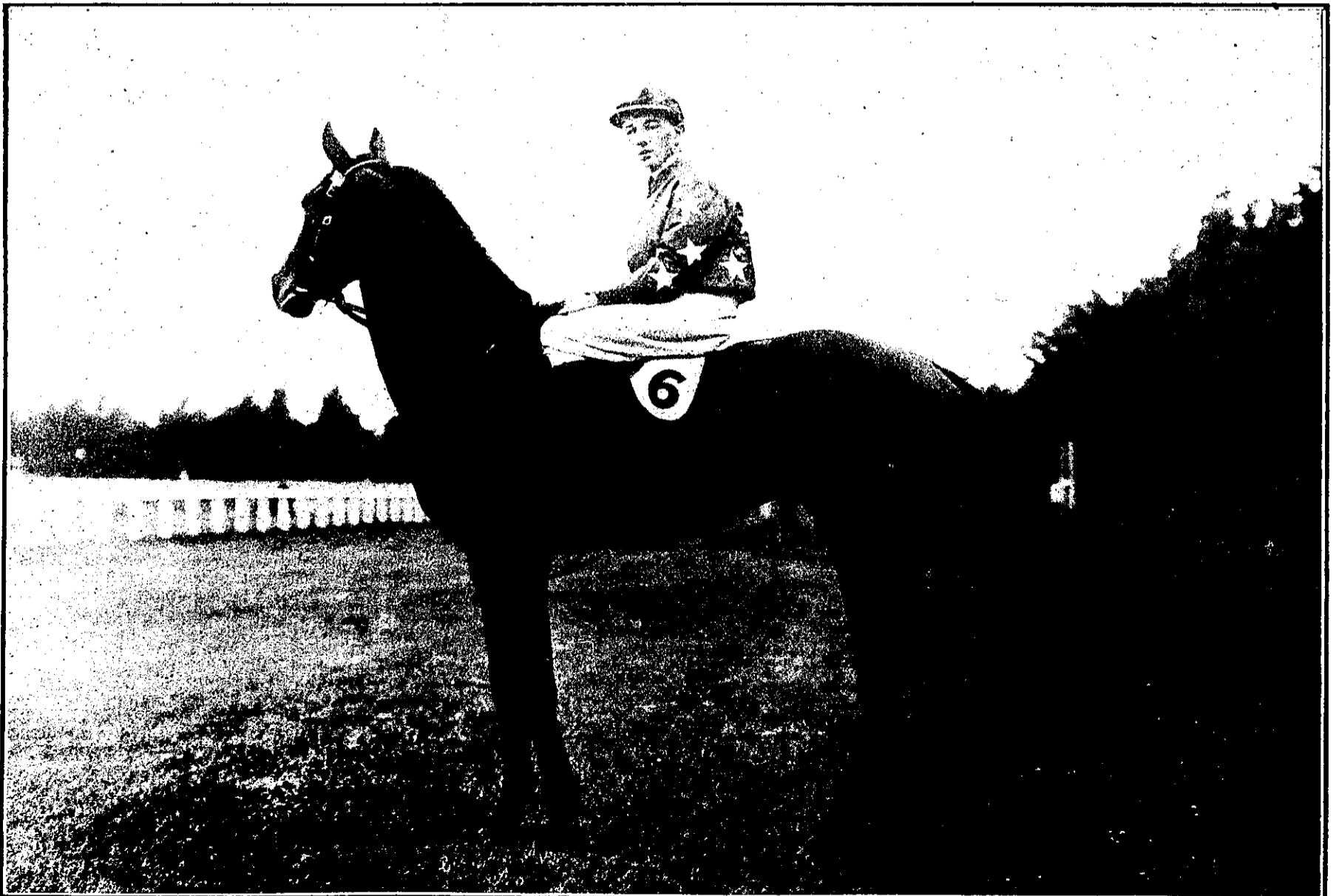
in bringing up this matter, and no reason whatever exists for supposing otherwise, then it should mean a considerable step in the direction of those after-the-war reforms which have been so much talked about.

Powerful interests are involved, and any proposal drastically to reduce unrestricted profits would be sure of fierce opposition. But all rule, authority, and power must be with the Jockey Club, irrespective of private interests, subject, of course, to a due regard for right and justice. I find fault with the composition of the club, and have often lamented its inertia of supervision, but the principle of government is right. There must be no interference with the Jockey Club, except to energise it and bring it into line with the altered conditions of racing. However much we may deplore it, the fact confronts us that racing has become largely a business. Thank goodness, some of the old sporting spirit still remains, but it is up against strong elements of commercialism which, too, like the Gaiety giantess, grow and grow.

There are rumblings of reform, and it is most devoutly to be hoped that the Jockey Club have at last put hands to the plough in earnest. A supine policy has too long prevailed not only as regards supervision but also in the matter of methods. Great changes have come over racing in the last twenty years even, demanding in my humble opinion new methods. But with the exception of the starting gate, which we took in fear and trembling from Australia, little or nothing has been done to up-to-date the management of the turf, although by almost general consent it is now so much a business with the majority as to make the methods of other days look antiquated.

Lord D'Abernon and Mr. Frank Curzon's suggestions of reform to the Jockey Club's committee of investigation are so much special pleading on behalf of centralised racing and the parimutuel. I look on this centralisation idea as a thoroughly bad one from every point of view. I venture to suggest that much more valuable information could be got from a man like Mr. Lionel Robinson, who has lived and raced both here and in Australia, and is in a position to supply comparisons from personal experience. South Africa and India might also be resorted to for likely hints.

Notable Performers on the New Zealand Turf.—No. 83: FIRST SALUTE.



A HAWKE'S BAY CANDIDATE FOR TAKAPUNA CUP HONOURS THIS WEEK—MR. J. Y. McCracken's br c **FIRST SALUTE**, 4YRS, BY MARBLE ARCH—SALUTE. M. McCARTEN IN SADDLE. TRAINED BY OWNER. So far this season **FIRST SALUTE** has won three races—the Moumahaki Stakes Handicap (one mile) at the Waverley-Waitotara R.C.'s annual meeting; the Otaio Plate (1½ miles) at the N.Z. Cup gathering at Riccarton, and the St. Andrew's Handicap (1½ miles) at the Feilding J.C.'s spring venture.