

Friends will be pleased to learn that Mr. Monte McCallum, who recently underwent an operation, is making good progress.

No section of the community is a more generous contributor to the revenue of the Dominion than followers of the turf, and though they save those opposed to racing from the burden of taxation in no small measure, little or no recognition is given to this important fact. On the contrary, they are fully expected by non-racegoers to pay no inconsiderable amount annually to the Government in the shape of amusement, totalisator, dividend and other taxes, while if those with anti-sporting proclivities had their way, regular patrons of the turf would be taxed to an even greater extent. A case in point occurred last week, when a deputation from the Borough Councils of Devonport, Northcote, and Birkenhead waited upon the Hon. E. W. Alison, managing director of the Devonport Ferry Company to protest against the proposed increase in the boat fares. A suggestion was made that the fares should be increased on race days, while one of the speakers further suggested an extra sixpence admission to the course, which would go to the company, and would provide almost all the extra revenue required. Mr. Alison stated that the person responsible for the proposal had an inflated idea of the return that would be obtained. The Takapuna Jockey Club could not do more for the company. The through ticket on race days now provided the full return fare of 8d. to the company, and he could not see how one could differentiate between a man going to a race meeting or a prayer meeting and the ordinary traveller. Despite Mr. Alison's assurance that racegoers would have to pay the new addition along with others, the impression prevailed among the deputation that the easiest way out of the difficulty was for those who attend races to bear the full brunt of the proposed increase in fares. The instance is typical of what is expected of racing men these times, for, notwithstanding the substantial taxation to which they are regularly subjected when in pursuit of their pleasures, they are expected to keep putting their hands in their pockets to make good the necessary revenue which the country needs yearly to fulfil the heavy obligations that have naturally followed a costly war, and from which opponents of racing escape almost scot free.

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The Hon. C. E. Davies, M.L.C., of Hobart, and proprietor of the "Mercury" and a good sportsman, was a passenger by the Niagara going to Canada as a delegate to the Imperial Press Conference.

A. Cummings, for several years stud manager at Cambria Park, but for nearly eight years in the employ of Mr. Geo. Currie in the same capacity at his Kohatanui Stud, near Wanganui, has returned to Auckland, and is back at Cambria Park in charge of a number of young thoroughbreds which he is to educate and train.

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Arch Lassie and Parewanui have joined A. Oxenham's team at Levin.

Monarch and Leighton are two-year-olds in England well spoken of this season. The first-named is by Tracey (fee 250 guineas) from Teopani (dam of Royal Bucks), and won at Newmarket. Leighton won earlier in the season at Newbury, and each had only appeared once when the mail left.

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