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SPORTING.

Billy Robinson evidently didn't take much notice of my remarks about skull caps last week. He early discarded his own in the Riverton Steeplechase, and hunted old Zarkoma along at his fences with every confidence that his curls would keep his brains from being smashed, should he land on his head.

off a handicap with.

Alex. Macaulay may be an amateur judge but he has now had a lot of practice, and is generally considered sound in his judgments. I didn't have a good view of the finish of the Visitors' Hack Race on Saturday, so am not qualified to say what won, but it is a very old saying that 'Only the man in the box can tell," and knowing Alex as I do I am prepared to wager he was right. Two who were in a good line endorse his judgment that Sartolite won by nearly half a length.

To get the money through the Riverton Club had to delay the start of the last race nearly an hour each day. Far better to arrange for longer intervals between the races when making up the race card than be altering the time of every race.

Looks as if the Southland and Riverton Clubs will be doing something in the way of building in the very near future.

Marching Order isn't a good one. He left a nasty taste in a lot of mouths after the seventh race on Monday.

Thistlecrown landed his party a nice stake on Monday, but the same horse cost his connections some money on Saturday.

Burnbank isnt' a steeplechaser to go nap on yet. He will take a lot of teaching too. Yet the crowd made him favourite on Saturday,

The Boss ran like a duffer on Monday, He doesn't appear to be the same horse that won in Invercargill a fortnight ago.

"Pat" Hogan's pair, Silverspire and Zarkoma, were stones ahead of any other jumpers about at the Riverton meeting.

That punter who put 12st 13lbs against Silverspire in Monday's race-card assessed his proper handicap better than Abbey Jones did. (I don't mean "Abbey" the printer.)

Burrangong ran three good races at Riverton, and in addition to having won his owner 400sovs with the Riverton Cup, he also landed him several hundreds of a cheap double with Silver Peak.

George Young did not have a very profitable trip to Riverton on Saturday, as he only caught one win. Still that may help him to head the list of winning jockeys at the end of the season.

Mazama was pulling double (not Tom) at the end of half a mile in the big race on Monday, and wasn't in the picture at the end of the race.

Alex. McIvor rode his first steeplechase over the Riverton course. He also won his first steeplechase on the same course, and now thanks to a game committee who were not afraid to experiment, he made his debut as a starter, and was again successful. Alex. always had the name of being thorough as a trainer, he certainly showed he was going to be thorough as a starter, and even Buller and Andy McKay had to behave themselves when Alex. got hold of the lever.

Alex. McIvor made a name for himself twenty years ago as a successful rider; then he gradually climbed to the top of the tree as a public trainer, and had no superior in Otago. He now appears on the scene again in another successful role, that of starter, and he has come just at a time when most needed. His work at Riverton on Saturday and Monday was no fluke-it was the result of his long knowledge of the racing game, and both horses and riders appeared to realise this very

The steeplechase fences at Riverton were pretty this year, but appear to be getting smaller and smaller.

Three old steeplechase riders over the quhar McKay, and Alex. McKenzie, it is at their feet.

were interested spectators on Saturday and Monday. We have never seen a better man across country in Southland than Arthur Gerrard was twenty years ago. He was an amateur that really loved the game for the game's sake. Most of them now only like it for the gain sake.

Pat Hogan's team are likely to make Post Haste is not a good hach to head | a good showing in the Steeplechase at the Riccarton meeting for the Prince. That is provided San Sebastian has to give them weight.

> Frequent fast schooling is the secret of Hogan's success with jumpers.

Sasanof is a good one, and weight doesn't seem to trouble him when he is

Arrowsmith is the first imported horse of recent years to win the Great Easter, He did it well, too.

The Riverton Club will be building soon now, and Architect Brodrick already has the plans in hand,

Old Awahou nearly came to light at Lawrence by finishing second to Jack Symons. He would have paid some price had he got home.

Eight Bells was lame when she went out for her race the second day, and is a game mare to struggle on the way she did at the finish.

Two ex-starters of the Riverton Club in Messrs Fred Wallis and Tom Prendergast were not backward in extending congratulations to Alex. McIvor on his good

Handicapper Jones provided two fine races in the principal handicaps each day at Riverton. No one could wish to see better races.

Secretary Geary handled his big job on Saturday in good style. He has two good lieutenants in Tom Winton and Ewan Matheson.

Palamon, a hot favourite at Lewrence, where he ran like a nule, won easily at Bowmont on Monday and also ran second in another race to Revolution.

Until won in good style for Scotty at Lawrence. He was a good favourite too.

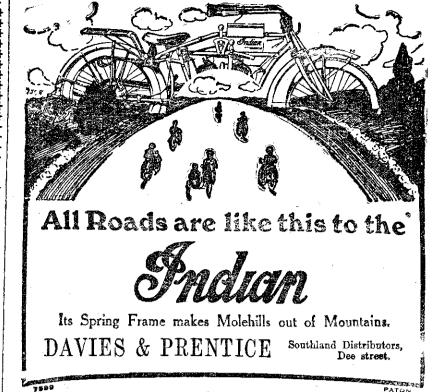
Has the local club any idea of ever giving the half dollar crowd a stand again? Half-a-crown for the outside and we stand in the top dog pieces in Australasia for the "commoners" enclosure!

The committee of the Southland Racing Club is inviting applications for the position of secretary.

The Riverton Club was lucky with the the meeting closed.

Killowen, who was most generously treated by both handicapper Gibb and Saunders won a race at each of the Easter Meetings at the Goldfields.

Sports! Sports! Their very day's work is one of risk every minute, these airmen. "I have a rendezvous with Death," said a poet; and these flying men might have had the words painted on their machines, for, notwithstanding the safety demostrated by a flight from England to Australia, they have a rendezvous with the grim spectre every time they leave the earth. The airman, even the German ones, displayed sportsmanship in their warfare, and made the service noted for it. The Smiths landed in the early hours, with their characteristic native unobtrusiveness, far from where people would have eben waiting in thousands to welcome them. They received their cheque for £10,000—what a prize for two youths—and divided it with their mechanics. It was what was expected from them. A report appeared that they have been given privately a gift of £10,000 each, a rich Adelaide admirer being the donor. Next is to come a book—an epoch book for Australia of the journey, for it has a wealth of detail for us to read about. Then lectures are spoken of. The yrose above the world Riverton country in Arthur Gerrard, Far- as mortal man had not done before. Now



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CLUTHA VALLEY RAILWAYS.

For a considerable number of years the settlers of Clutha Valley have been placed at a great disadvantage owing to the poor and uncertain river steamer service by which their needs are supposed to be met. This steamer service was brought into commission some 30 years ago, at which time it met the requirements of sheep stations, comprising approximately 200,000 acres. With the passing of years this vast and highly productive area has been cut up and divided into farms on which hundreds of families have made their homes, and immensely increased its production, yet they are still served in the same old way by the same inadequate steamer service. The farmers and residents of the various districts, who have been endeavouring for past years to secure a railway service are now organising an agitation in support of their dmeand. Strong railleagues have, we understand been formed in the districts of Hillend, Awamangu, Clydevale, and Pomahaka Downs and they are advocating the construction of a railway line from Lovell's Flat through Hillend, Clydevale, and Pomahaka Downs. A number of residents from Milton, Lovell's Flat, Hillend Clydevale, and Pomahaka Downs, who recently travelled in motor cars over this route, satisfied themselves that a railway from Lovell's Flat to Pomahaka Downs would be a profitable concern and would serve the public better not only to-day but in the future, than it can otherwise be served. The journey over the route was commenced at 3 p.m., and the party returned about 6 p.m., adjourning to the Clydevale Hall, where, after refreshments had been enjoyed, addresses were given by Mr A. C. Kee (Clydevale), Mr J. Clark (Lovell's Flat), Mr Scott (Milton), Mr J. Begg (Pukeawa), and Mr J. S. White (Hillend.) ive.

SOUTHERN LANDS COMMISSION.

GORE and WYNDHAM.

TO BE THOROUGHLY REPRESENTA TIVE.

NAMES OF POSSIBLE APPOINTEES.

The Royal Commission which is to inquire into Otago and Canterbury land tenures will be set up shortly. Delays have occurred owing to a number of the men first selected being unable, for various reasons, to act on the commission, and also owing to the inability of the department to get in touch with other proposed members owing to the fact that these men were temporarily absent from their homes. Everything, however, is now in train for the appointment of the commission, which will probably be dealt with by the Executive Council at its next meeting.

The appointees will be largely representative of the different districts that will come under review, and it is understood that the greatest care has been taken in making the selection. The names of those who are to constitute the commission are not yet available, but it is generally understood that Mr R. T. Sadd (Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Otago land district) will be chairman, and that he will have associated with him Mr Cockayne, of the Agricultural Department. The other members will represent the country from Southland to North Canterbury. Amongst those likely to be appointed are Messrs Charles Todd (Dunedin), Robert Scott (Kyeburn) formerly M.P., for Tuapeka), Mr Dixon Jardine (Southland) M'Innes (Otage), and Buckhurst (Canterbury). Indeed, it is quite likely that this will be the actual composition of the commission, though nothing definite will be decided till the meeting of the execut-

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