

HORSES

SOMETIMES DREAMS COME TRUE

A Preview Of The Trentham Meeting

FOR years and years and years he had backed racehorses; winners and losers; mostly losers. And for months and months he had waited for the New Year; to make a resolution not to back racehorses any more — not any more.

The New Year came, and he resolved not to back racehorses any more.

But something has happened since.

Who believes in dreams? No matter, it will not do any harm to tell you about the dream he had the other Saturday night.

The season for new resolutions had just come upon him. He had been considering writing a book: "Horses I've Backed and Cursed." Even the earth was disturbed and shaken.

Slipped Into Dreamland

Whatever the reason he slipped into dreamland — a dreamland very like the front lawn at Trentham.

... and on that lawn there were some horses, with a hee-haw here, and a hee-haw there ...

An air of gaiety was abroad. The horses, eight of them in all, seemed to be in holiday mood. He described them for our artist. Somehow they looked very like the programme for the Wellington Racing Club's Centennial Meeting. When they noticed his presence, they ran past in single file, each one giving a hee-haw salute as it passed. Old friends they were.

But that was last year, and in his dream he decided not to nurse any grudge. Hadn't he bought an interest in some of these horses? One of them he thought he must have bought outright. One, hostile, would not look him in the eye.

The last of the eight swung round and trotted up to him.

"Hello," he said, "aren't we having a lovely day for our Centennial celebrations? My name's Moorsotis."

He became very confidential.

Which Would Win?

Although the day marked the opening of the Centennial meeting, he said the horses had decided to celebrate the Centennial too, and a resolution had been passed declaring the day a holiday and no real work was to be done. Between themselves they had decided which horses would win the races, and for the rest, they intended to enjoy themselves.

But why should he worry? Wasn't he getting the oil beforehand?

By this time the other horses had gathered in a semi-circle. The second one was a well-built youngster, and the fact that he had let the dreamer down once didn't seem to bother him. "Meet Sir Beau," said Moorsotis. "He's going to get you back all he's cost you, and then some. He's a nice lad and it's going to pay you to keep friendly with him." Sir Beau nodded his head as if he endorsed all that Moorsotis had said.

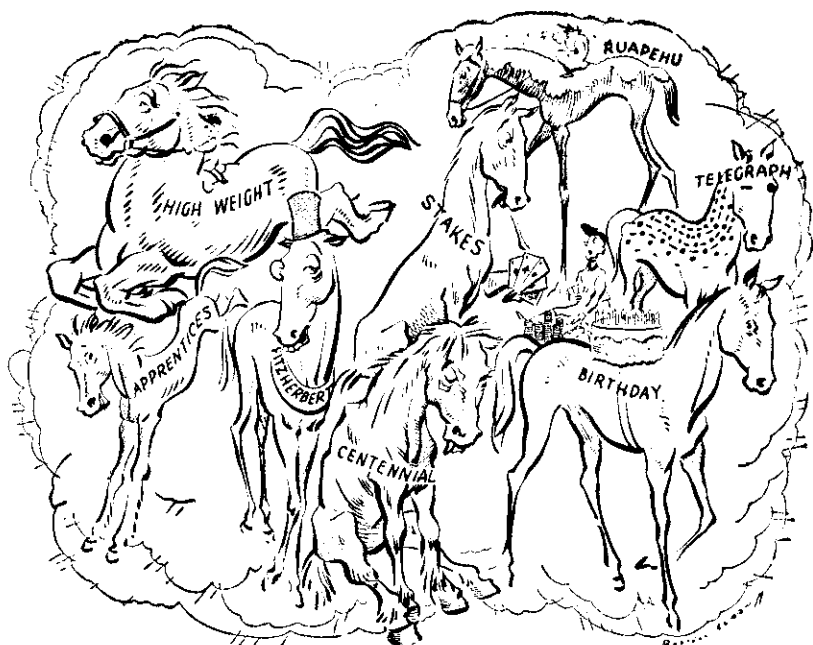
Nice-Looking Youngster

Next to Sir Beau was another nice looking youngster, although he seemed a little more excited and didn't appear to be quite as friendly.

"This chap here is Arcas," said Moorsotis. "Hasn't had the best of luck lately but his turn's coming soon. Don't blush, Arcas, you'll feel a lot better after the day's over."

Three winners so far, the dreamer thought.

If he had eight and put a pound for a win on the first, all up on the second, all up on the third, and so on to the end, how much was he going to win? While he fondly pondered this mathematical problem the catastrophe happened.



MIDNIGHT in the moonlight: On the lawn at Trentham

Somehow he had edged a little too near to the rear end of the hostile friend on the extreme right, and the brute, resenting it, took a flying shot with both feet.

The whole house shook. The Dominion Observatory registered the incident as Force 4 on the Rossi-Forel scale. The earthquake, unfortunately, cheated all *The Listener* readers of what might have proved to be really valuable advance information.

But there's something to go on with, and we have a more realistic view of the situation.

Strangely enough, included in the list of those likely to run well, are two of the three horses mentioned in the dream article. Their performances at recent meetings have been good!

Sir Beau

Sir Beau, a Beau Pere colt, had his first start at Palmerston. He ran Absolve to half-a-head although he had been several lengths back at the entrance to the straight. On the second day, he reversed the placings, and beat Absolve easily by three lengths. Sir Beau promises to be one of the best two-year-olds of the season.

Arcas

Raced without luck at the New Zealand Cup Meeting. Started in the Trial on the second day at the Manawatu Meeting, but was never likely.

Moorsotis

Unplaced in the Christmas Handicap on the first day at Auckland, he became favourite for the Plunket Handicap on the second day. He came to the post in third place, and was doing better than at any other stage in the race. On the third day he won a creditable fourth in the Derby without being really dangerous. It is possible that the connections of Moorsotis may decide to tackle the Cup in preference to the Anniversary Handicap, although he would appear to have better chances of success in the latter event.

FORM

IN THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY

The Trentham Racing Club will hold its Summer Meeting on January 18, 20 and 22.

The following should do well:

Trentham Highweight:	Raana, Lockett, W. Rajah.
Apprentices Plate:	Wings of Song, Sceptic, Chief Lord.
Fitzherbert Handicap:	Chary, Don't Forget, Kadina.
Centennial Cup:	Old Bill, Beau Vite, Royal Chief.
Stakes:	Sir Beau, Doria, Lambourn.
Ruapehu Handicap:	Sir Crusoe, Antolite, Gold Chase.
Telegraph Handicap:	Amigo, Disdain, Olympus.
Anniversary Handicap:	Baran, Moorsotis, Duncannon.