

travel them from Nelson to the Bluff, and it is very discouraging to the small men that they should get so very little racing in and around a big centre like Christchurch.

NORTH CANTERBURY AND OXFORD JOCKEY CLUB.

The headquarters of the club are at Rangiora. The first race meeting was held on Easter Monday, 1877. The club is registered. The last meeting was held in July, 1914. A list of the present members of the club and a copy of the club's last balance-sheet have been forwarded. The course is situated about one mile from Rangiora Railway-station, and the soil is of sandy formation. The circumference is 9 furlongs. The tenure is freehold, and is the property of the North Canterbury and Oxford Jockey Club, clear of encumbrances or mortgage. The accommodation consists of stewards' stand and offices, weighing, jockeys', and dressing rooms, secretary's room, totalizator-house, saddling-paddock, and stalls, &c. The buildings are not new, and are not sufficient for present-day racing. The club, if granted a permit, will immediately put up new buildings and all conveniences for the comfort of the public. The nearest clubs using the totalizator are the Canterbury Jockey Club, holding a totalizator permit for eleven days in the year, situated about seventeen miles south, and the Amberley Steeplechase Club, seventeen miles north, both distances as the crow flies. The nearest club holding a race meeting without a totalizator on the north would be the Hurunui Racing Club, forty-two miles away, and the nearest south the Rakaiia Racing Club, thirty miles away. The North Canterbury Jockey Club has held a race meeting every year since it lost its permit. The Oxford Jockey Club until a few years back held a totalizator permit, but when the Gaming Commission cancelled the North Canterbury Jockey Club's totalizator permit it joined forces and amalgamated with North Canterbury with the idea of making a strong and representative club. We have held a race meeting every year in July without a totalizator, thereby showing our desire to further sport and to encourage farmers in improving the breed of horses. Rangiora, where our racecourse is situated, is the centre of a large and thickly populated country district, and is well served by railway and good roads, thereby being very conveniently situated for the North Canterbury race-going public. We are one of the oldest, if not the oldest, club in Canterbury. We have been racing for thirty-seven years continually, and have held a totalizator permit since 1884. Our course is freehold, and is valued at £900, and is free from mortgage, which is sufficient to prove the club's financial position. If we are granted a permit we are prepared to erect new stands and conveniences for the public. We have continuously held a sports meeting without a totalizator before and since the loss of permit by Gaming Commission. The object of our meetings is to improve the hunter and harness horse, and thereby improve the number of horses available for remount purposes.

By the Deputation.—We have an offer from Mr. Luttrell to spend any amount up to £1,000 on improvements on the course at 5 per cent. The Oxford Club has amalgamated with us. We also tried to get Ohoka to join with us, but did not succeed. Ohoka preferred to stand their chance of getting a permit. We have all the best people in the north with us. We do not think there is any prospect of Ohoka coming in with us unless they were advised to by some one other than us. We offered Ohoka a good thing, because we are holding a property worth £1,000 and they are holding nothing. Ohoka and Oxford raced on domains. All three clubs are in the one electoral district. If we had not lost our permit the present buildings were to have been sold for old timber, and we had passed a resolution to spend £800 on improvements. We had the plans out. That is what will be done if we get a permit again.

OHOKA AND EYRETON JOCKEY CLUB.

The headquarters of the club are at Ohoka. The club was formed in 1874, and has raced with a totalizator permit since the year 1883. A list of the present members of the club and a copy of the club's last balance-sheet have been forwarded. The circumference of the course is 8 furlongs. The course is situate on the Ohoka and Eyreton Domain, and is 15 chains from the Mandeville North Railway-station, and it was originally granted by the Government for a racing reserve. Area consists of 250 acres. The accommodation consists of grandstand to accommodate fifteen hundred persons, tea-room, totalizator-house, ladies' room, jockeys' room, secretary's office, weighing-room, reporters' room, stewards' stand, and large saddling-paddock with eight permanent loose-boxes. The course is railed 10 chains on each side of the winning-post. The nearest club using the totalizator is the Amberley Steeplechase Club, twenty-five miles distant. The nearest club not using the totalizator is eight miles distant. This application is for a hunt club license. We are prepared to give £350 in stakes, as in the past, and we have always endeavoured to cater for a useful type of horse—namely, hunter and welter horses. We have a membership of ninety, mostly farmers who are never seen on a racecourse elsewhere. Our meeting is looked forward to as a general holiday in the district.

By the Deputation.—We have not held any meeting for the last two years. Our stakes in the last few years of running were about £300. Since the last totalizator meeting we have held a hack meeting, at which we gave £150 in stakes. We lost very heavily over it. The public turned up well, but the owners did not nominate. This course is on a reserve which was granted, we understand, for the purpose of a racecourse. The present improvements were made when there was no question of our losing the permit. We are prepared to do anything that is required in the way of improvements if we get a permit. We always conducted our meetings on proper lines, and there is no black mark against us. So far as we know no suggestion has been made to us to amalgamate with any other club in the district. We have not studied the question at all. They have never written to us on the point as a club. This is a purely country club, and our district extends from Oxford to Kaiapoi. The Mandeville Railway-station is quite close to the course.