

business of hunting here two days a week ever since it began. We are the only hunt club north of Christchurch, and cater for a very large district. With the exception of a small yearly grant from the Canterbury Jockey Club and an occasional donation from the Amberley Steeplechase Club, it derives its income from members' subscriptions. If the club were able to hold a totalizer meeting once a year its finances would benefit considerably, and the executive feel sure they could conduct such a meeting in a proper manner. There is no doubt that in carrying on the sport of hunting in this district the club induces farmers and others to breed a good class of horse.

By the Deputation.—We prefer not to amalgamate with the Christchurch Hunt. We want a permit for ourselves, if possible. We receive £50 annually from the C.J.C. We do not want to amalgamate with Christchurch because it would merely mean giving another day's racing to the metropolitan club. We want a little day's racing for ourselves in the country. There is no trouble in getting the course at Amberley, because it does not belong to the steeplechase club but to the Domain Board. We have at the kennels ten couples of old hounds and about eight couples of young hounds for this season. The pack generally consists of about fifteen couples.

CHRISTCHURCH HUNT CLUB.

The headquarters of the club are at Christchurch. The club has been in existence for over thirty-five years. The club is registered. The last meeting was held in August, 1914. The club held a point-to-point steeplechase meeting in 1913 and 1914 in conjunction with the 1st Mounted Rifles, C.Y.C.

By the Deputation.—Our hunt, like most hunts, consists of senior members who will carry on on their subscriptions. We have ten members away at the front, and we will have no subscriptions from them. We find it very difficult to carry on at all now. In asking for a permit we only want enough money to keep the hunt going, though, of course, we would like our day's sport. There is a little difference of opinion in the club as to whether we are in a position to run a race meeting. If we could run a meeting and derive a profit from it there is no doubt we think we are entitled to it. We have done a thing that no other hunt has done—we have kept a thoroughbred at the kennels which stands at a nominal fee for the benefit of members. We think we can get permission from the C.J.C. to hold our meeting on its course if we get a permit. There is a suggestion to amalgamate the two hunts in the North Canterbury district, and we have approached the Brackenfield Hunt, but have not heard from them yet. We would rather amalgamate than have a permit at the expense of the Brackenfield Hunt. To be quite candid, our club is not quite keen on this application. Some of our members are very keen, and if the permit is granted we will see the thing through. We think the best and most economical thing would be to amalgamate with Brackenfield and have a second day for the hunt clubs after the Amberley meeting. We used to run a hunt club meeting at Riccarton and made a profit of about £500. There was no binding arrangement with the C.J.C., and finally we discontinued the meeting, and they gave us £250 a year, which we thought was very generous. Then other clubs demanded assistance and finally our subsidy was cut down to £200 a year. The C.J.C. gave us the subsidy on condition that we gave up our meeting. If we get a permit we will no doubt lose the subsidy. Three or four years ago the jockey club used to have several more hunters' races on its programme than it has now, but lately they have been dropped.

SOUTH CANTERBURY HUNT CLUB.

The headquarters of the club are at Timaru. The club was formed in 1882, and 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. We have the use of the South Canterbury Jockey Club's course, which is a well-appointed one. The circumference of the course is 9 furlongs. The course is a reserve vested in trustees for racing purposes. The course is fenced on the inside. The nearest clubs using the totalizer are at Waimate (one day's racing), thirty miles, and at Geraldine (two days' racing), twenty-two miles distant. The hunt is dependent for its existence on the generosity of members of the Canterbury Jockey Club and South Canterbury Jockey Club, and, of course, encourages young men to become good horsemen, and also encourages farmers to breed hunters, which are a most useful class for remounts.

By the Deputation.—We are one of the oldest hunts in the South Island, and we have always tried to carry on hunting in the most sporting way possible. We think we can safely say that the district which we hunt, from the Rangitata to the Pareora Rivers, is one of the best hunting districts in the country, and we claim that we have produced as good horses for utility, racing, and military purposes as any hunt in New Zealand. We have always entered mounted sections for the different competitions and they have always done well. All these men and horses have been trained in our hunting-field. Horses trained in our hunt have won some of the principal events in New Zealand, including the Grand National. We think hunting is a great thing for the breeding of horses in the district. We are now finding great difficulty in keeping our hunt finances going. We have quite a large membership, but it is chiefly composed of farmers and farmers' sons from whom we get the country we hunt over, and we do not like to ask them for big subscriptions on that account. We have held a meeting on this course for the past fourteen years, and it has always been very successful. We have three steeplechases and one hurdle race at these meetings. The jockey club here is putting on a steeplechase at its next meeting. A permit would help our hunt to keep going, and would improve the breed of horses here. We have seventeen and a half working couples of hounds and eleven couples of puppies. We have our own kennels.