

NORTHERN NOTES.

(By "Deadend.")

Since my last contribution, I have spent some time in the 'Flu Hospital at Waratah, but, thanks to a pigeonier's constitution, I weathered the storm, and am again on my legs, and doing the rounds of my brother fanciers' lofts, and have had mostly as my companion Mr. Bill Turner, another 'flu patient and pigeon fancier, who conducts me into lofts to which I had never been. The first place I visited was Mr. Healy, of Wickham, the home of Ginger Mick, the Vassart. Unfortunately this gentleman was away from home in connection with his business, so I did not have the pleasure of his company; but his brother did the necessary, and showed me through the lofts, which, by the way, are most up-to-date in every way. The racing lofts contain about sixty racing birds of grand type and feather, bred from the most aristocratic of parents, gathered together from the four corners of Australia, and for which no price was too high when "the goods" was there. Among the stock birds I noticed a Soft hen, also a pair of those birds imported by Messrs. Atkinson Bros., and the sire and dam of Merewether's big winner of 1918. These, together with the rest, should produce something that should help him repeat his performance of 1910.

My next visit was to 23 Gray-street, Wickham, the residence of the Donnison Bros., but they, too, were absent, taking advantage of the holidays; so, after a hurried glance at the birds, which look to be in the pink, and completing a good moult, I made my departure. Now, Hughie, next time "Dead-end" calls on you, please be at home, so he can criticise your birds.

The next place I strolled into was Mr. Ted Newton's, of Maryville, but found, to my disappointment, he had sold his birds, and his loft was lying in a heap in the corner of the yard. Before going over to see the Hun, where he left his good right arm, he flew more than one good pigeon from Charlesville.

So, still on the roam, I found my way into the loft of that old-timer and winner of a 500 mile race, Bill Lang, and saw the winner, a neat red hen, now aged, but still having the appearance of a yearling. He informs me he is only keeping the old pairs till his boys come home from France.

The next to come under review were the birds of Teddy McDougall, of Merewether, and winner of 1918 Charleville race in Newcastle Club. This fancier has about thirty birds going through their paces at the present, to be ready for the first yearling race, a month from now, and as he has some sisters and brothers to his 500 mile winner, he is sure to make things warm for his club mates.

From here to Bert Caldwell's place is only a step, so I was soon over there, and just in time to see some of his yearlings home from Maitland, liberated singly by Mr. Mitchell, of the Royal Lofts, a fancier of that town, and, after admiring some of his older birds, I wended my way towards Barnes Bros.'

lofts, and found they had the lofts newly lime-washed, and everything spick and span, and the nests already in the yearling loft in readiness for the first races. These fanciers have selected some thirty birds to represent them in these races, and I believe they were to be basketed that night for a toss on the Sunday from Muswellbrook. They have some fifty-odd birds in the old bird loft, and my fancy here, for the longer races, was a medium checker cock, which is four years old this year, I believe, having competed in the 565 miles race last year, as I always fancy a three- or four-year-old experienced bird for these races, should they be hard.

A Cross in this Square means that your Annual Subscription EXPIRES with this issue.



Kindly remit 4/- at once to ensure next issue being forwarded.

A HANDSOME PRIZE

Mr. Stewart Black has offered a prize of five guineas (£5/5/-) to be awarded to the pigeon putting up the best performance in races of 500 miles or over in 1919. Mr. Black wishes to encourage the races that prove the stamina of our birds, and by doing this help us to improve our birds and make them more and more reliable.

A Second Prize of £2/2/- is offered by Mr. W. H. Read.

CONDITIONS.

The prize is open for competition to all Fanciers in Australasia (including New Zealand) who are subscribers to "The Australasian Racing Pigeon."

The result of the race in which the performance is put up must have been published in the "A.R.P."

Claims must be sent in as soon after the race is flown as possible, and must be supported in writing by the secretary of the Federation or Club by whom the race was organised, also the date and number of receipt for the claimant's name to the "A.R.P." must be given.

LOST BIRD, by A. Taylor, Tennyson Road, Ryde, Blue Ch. Hen, F.R.P. 17-4920.

LOST BIRD—Red Ch. Pied Cock, W.S. 1913-78, by G. Bridges, Bruce St., Ashfield.

INVERELL PIGEON RACING SOCIETY.

A public meeting, called for the purpose of forming the above Society, was held in the School of Arts on Tuesday night. A number of pigeon fanciers and interested persons were present, including several of the local business representatives. Mr. W. Syrett was voted to the chair, and after explaining the reason for calling the meeting, and pointing out the necessity of forming the Society, Mr. E. C. Bartle explained the complete system of establishing a pigeon racing club, and the method of conducting races. This is most complicated and interesting, but space forbids us giving a full account here, as it appeared in a previous issue, with the exception that clocks, made for the special purpose of timing racing pigeons, will be used by the club.

It was unanimously decided to form a club, to be called the "Inverell Pigeon Racing Society," with a membership of 8 actual flying members, 8 intending members, 12 honorary members at 5s each, and £13 in cash, including a donation of one guinea from Mr. Harry Buxton.

Mr. E. C. Bartle was appointed secretary, and it was decided to have 150 illuminated tickets printed—fifty of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes. The following programme for the ensuing year was adopted:—

Race Programme, Season 1919.

June	7—Warialda, 39 miles. Open.
"	14—Binniguy, 61 miles. Yearling.
"	21—Binniguy, 61 miles. Old Bird.
"	28—Moree, 81 miles. Yearling.
July	5—Moree, 81 miles. Old Bird.
"	12—Warialda, 39 miles. Open.
"	19—Warialda, 39 miles. Open.
"	26—Gravesend, 50 miles. Open.
Aug.	2—Gravesend, 50 miles. Open.
"	9—Binniguy, 61 miles. Yearling.
"	16—Binniguy, 61 miles. Open.
"	23—Moree, 81 miles. Old Bird Champ.
"	30—Moree, 81 miles. Yearling Champ.
Sept.	6—Garah, 104 miles. Open.
"	13—Garah, 104 miles. Open.
"	20—Mungindi, 146 miles. Open.
"	27—Mungindi, 146 miles. 2 Bird Ch.
Oct.	4—Dirranbandi, 195 miles. Open.
"	11—Cunnamulla, 352 miles. Open.
"	18—Charleville, 408 miles. Open Champ.
"	25—Moree, 81 miles. Special Novice.
Nov.	1—Warialda, 39 miles. Open.
"	8—Gravesend, 50 miles. Open.
"	15—Gravesend, 50 miles. Young Bird.
"	22—Binniguy, 61 miles. Open.
"	29—Binniguy, 61 miles. 2 Bird, Open.
Dec.	7—Moree, 81 miles. Open.
"	13—Moree, 81 miles. Young Bird Ch.

PEDIGREES OF WINNERS.

WESTERN SUBURBS CLUB.

Messrs. Bushell Bros. Black Cheq. Cock F.R.P.18.334, winner of 1st prize, Buxton. Sire, Black Cheq. Cock White Flights N.U.R.P.15.432. Dam, Blue Cheq. Hen N.U.R.P.11.328, strain Posenaer and Hansenne. This pair imported from C. Thorogood.

Messrs. Bushell Bros. Light Cheq. Cock F.R.P.18.334, winner of 2nd prize, Bundanoon, brother to 1389.

Messrs. Bushell Bros. Dark Cheq. Hen L.F.C.18.414, winner of 2nd prize, Bundanoon. Sire, Vassart; Dam, Osman.