

practically impossible that I should get a letter home to Mrs. Bartle by post since I have been here (three days), but still she has received six letters (two a day) ever since I have been here."

A CHAMPION BIRD.

We often see and hear of good long distance racing pigeons, but the best one I ever knew died at Mr. McNaughton's loft at Croydon about a fortnight ago, and I think you will agree with me that her performances are worth a paragraph in your paper.

This hen, Shortland III., was hatched in 1902, and flew all stages to Oodnadatta, 550 miles, five years in successions. During her six years' flying she competed in eleven races, and won four firsts, two seconds, 2 thirds, one fourth, and twice unplaced. Not one of the Oodnadatta races could be called a blow home; 1907 was the easiest. About fourteen homed on the first night, and she arrived about 7 o'clock next morn-



ing, and this was the only occasion she failed to secure a position from that race-point. 1906 was the hardest fly. The birds were liberated at 6 a.m., and Shortland III. was timed in at 15 minutes to 1 on the second day, and won the race. A strong sou.-west wind blew against the birds both days.

She was bred and raced by Messrs. Rowe Bros. Mr. P. F. Rowe died in 1908, and the birds were kept on by his brother, Mr. M. Rowe. At his death about 2½ years ago, Mr. McNaughton took charge of the old hen to insure for her a good home in her old age. She was fit and well, and only looked a four-year-old, until three days before she died, and last season, when 15 years old, was a breeder. Truly a wonderful hen, and all old fanciers who were flying 10 to 15 years ago will have a soft spot in their hearts for both owners and bird for many years to come.

Her performances are as follows:—
383 A.F.C.-02, Blue Cheq. Hen, Shortland III., 1903, won 4th Port Pirie, 125 miles, veloc. 1063 yds.; 1st Quorn, 186 miles, veloc. 1157 yds.; 3rd Leigh Creek, 301 miles, veloc. 1282 yds.

1904: 2nd Hawker, 212 miles, veloc. 1097 yds.; 3rd L. Creek, 301 miles, veloc. 2217 yds.; 2nd A.F. Club and 4th Federal Oodnadatta, 550 miles, veloc. 1187 yds.

1905: 1st Leigh Creek, 301 miles, veloc. 991 yds.; 1st A.F. Club, Oodnadatta, 550 miles, veloc. 858 yds. (Club did not compete in Federal Race.)

1906: 1st A.F. Club, and 5th Federal from Oodnadatta, 550 miles.

1907: 7th Leigh Creek, 301 miles, veloc. 974 yds., and flew Oodnadatta, 550 miles.

1908: 4th Leigh Creek, 301 miles, veloc. 981 yds.; 2nd Club and 2nd Federal from Oodnadatta, 550 miles, veloc. 956 yds. (beaten by a loft mate).

Her sire was a R.C.C. Reporter, bred by Mr. Tom Brown, Port Pirie, from his Ince blood, and her dam was a B.C.H., bred from a pair of birds imported from Mons. Wielemans, Belgium.

HAROLD A. TAYLOR.

VICTORIAN HOMING ASSOCIATION.

Annual Report and Balance-Sheet.

The close of the Season calls for a brief review of your Association's affairs, financially, morally and otherwise, and presenting for your perusal a Statement of Account and Balance Sheet. An exceedingly heavy Season has just been concluded, and the extent of the financial transactions involved, as set out in the appended statements, forcibly emphasises the necessity of regarding your Association as a business proposition, and a realisation that your individual incumbency, is to do your part to facilitate the operation of business tactics.

A comparison with the figures of last year's Accounts shows a depreciation of £24 10s., but the position is created and the amount covered by two entries which lived and died with the Season, hence the Season, practically speaking, has been worked on a Balance, which having regard to the peculiar nature of your Sport and methods, is a high tribute to your moral stability, and vouches for your prospects when once again normal conditions are restored.

This is the fourth Season that has terminated since the commencement of hostilities abroad, and the absence of many esteemed fanciers who will never return to our ranks is mourned. We are proud of the fact, that our Membership List shows no names of persons who are known to be eligible for service abroad. Another phase which is admittedly gratifying is, that what we have developed in our sport, is at the present moment playing a most valuable part on the Battle Field, and as our Motherland has accepted an offer of Australian Homing pigeons to augment her supplies, each member has a privilege of placing birds for the purpose at the disposal of the Defence authorities, an opportunity which will assuredly be availed of to the uttermost.

The Season from the Sporting aspect has been an undoubted success; 17 Races have been flown for which 20,021

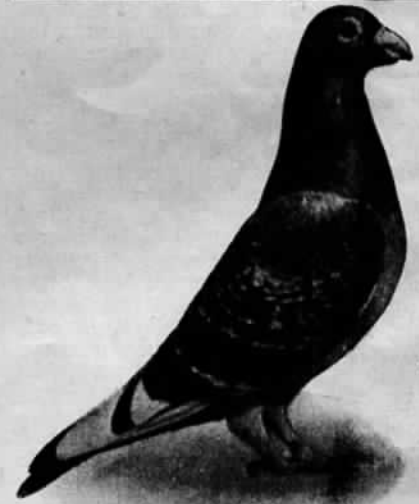
birds have been despatched.

Eight Federation Races have been promoted, for which 5,817 birds have been entered and total of £214 7s. competed for in Prizes and Pools and £103 1s. 6d. in V.H.A. Special Races. This is an appreciable advancement in every phase over last Season's record and demonstrates a fuller realisation of the Association's objects.

The distribution of honors in Federation Races has been the best yet attained; out of 48 possible certificates, 40 have been attained. W. Jackson and W. E. Cherry, Victoria Society, each gained 3 positions. W. Trehey, Victoria Society; Ward Bros., Carlton Club; T. Egan, Great Southern Club each gained 2 positions, whilst 35 other Members gained 1 position each.

An exceedingly heavy season has been most successfully culminated, and the best thanks must be accorded to the various Committees that have worked so amicably to its attainment. In conclusion, I desire to express my heartiest appreciation to those Members that have so consistently and valuably assisted me throughout.

F. S. CLAREY, Hon. Sec.



W. E. Lowe's "Champion Grooter."
Practically the Father of Mr. A. Ashton-Hansen's loft.

HORSHAM NOTES (VICTORIA).

Horsham Homing Pigeon Society is indebted to those gentlemen who took charge and liberated the birds at the various stages. In one or two instances they were despatched to the care of the local Station Master, and the attention of these officials is, needless to say, greatly appreciated.

On account of this being the first season, several members who made a late start were not in readiness for the races, but judging by the manner in which the sport is taking on, and the number of new fanciers coming along, the competition here in the near future promises to become very keen and interesting.

The best velocity for the season was put up in the Kaniva Race in the first series, viz., 1073 yards per minute.