

DEATH OF SPORTSMAN

SAVED FROM DEATH

GREAT RACING SUCCESSES

MAN BURIED BY SLIP

MR. A. ALEXANDER'S CAREER

A TIMELY RESCUE

20 YEARS IN NEW PLYMOUTH

RAILWAY WORKER'S COURAGE

Per Press Association.

GISBORNE, This Day.

For many years one of the most successful breeders and racers of horses in Taranaki Mr. Alexander Alexander died at New Plymouth this morning. Many fine horses which made a name for themselves on race tracks throughout New Zealand and Australia came from his stud, outstanding being Silver Link, a champion of more than a decade ago.

Racing in every phase was his major interest in life and he applied himself so successfully that he won a fame that had a much wider than local application. His horses were bred on his Waverley farm, but many of them were trained at New Plymouth. Mr. Alexander also took a very keen interest in the administrative side of racing and for 20 years was a committeeman and steward of the Taranaki Jockey Club. He was still a steward at the time of his death.

FINE RECORD.

His record of successes in the major races in New Zealand over a considerable period is one that any owner could well be proud of. Silver Link, of course, had the finest record and in 1920, accounted for no less than three classic races—Taranaki Stakes, Manawatu Stakes and Hawke's Bay Stakes. The following year Silver Link was first in the Easter Handicap and also the Railway Handicap at Auckland. Mr. Alexander also won the Railway with Bisogne in 1916.

Several other classics gave Mr. Alexander the pleasure of seeing his horse's number hoisted first. Bonny Helen captured the New Zealand Oaks in 1913, and at Auckland in 1917 Bisogne accounted for the Royal Stakes. He won the Canterbury Champagne Stakes with Gaillard in 1924. Silvermine, a son of Silver Link, won him the Steward's Handicap at Riccarton in 1928.

As a breeder Mr. Alexander was equally successful as an owner and most of the horses he raced were bred on his farm. Silver Link was a great brood mare herself and Silvermine and Link Divine were two of her breeding who made names for themselves. Horses bred on his farm and their descendants have been raced with success in New Zealand and have also been taken across the Tasman where they have also won races.

Mr. Alexander is survived by his wife, Mrs. Maria Alexander, president of the

New Plymouth Y.W.C.A., and one of its most enthusiastic supporters since the formation of the organisation in New Plymouth. There are four daughters and one son—Mr. W. F. Alexander (Waverley), Mrs. H. McDonald (Morrinsville), Mrs. P. J. McMillan (Putaruru), Mrs. H. M. Besley (New Plymouth) and Dr. Jessie Burnett (Hunterville).

Mr. Alexander was born in Scotland and has lived in New Zealand for 57 years. On his arrival in New Zealand Mr. Alexander first settled in the Turakina district, following which he was engaged in contracting with a threshing plant between Wanganui and Hawera. He settled permanently in Taranaki about 50 years ago at Hawera and was married 10 years later.

He came to New Plymouth in 1907 in order to provide educational facilities for his children, and managed his several farms in various parts of Taranaki from New Plymouth.

Mr. Alexander was a renowned breeder of Clydesdales and was a judge of draught and light horses at shows from Whangarei to Bluff. He was for some time a prominent member of the Taranaki A. and P. Society. Another interest which he took up later was bowling. He was also, for a period, a director of the Farmers' Co-op. Society.