

Presumably he had arranged for a locum pharmacist while he was on his world tour. Was this Ralph Reid? An R. Reid is playing golf in May 1938 at the Matamata Club, and Ralph Cuthbert Reid is on the general electoral roll of 1938, giving an address on Hinuera Road. This roll is dated 22nd September 1938. Ralph Reid was certainly manning the pharmacy in November 1939, and in May the following year purchased the business.



Matamata Record, 13 November 1939

PUBLIC NOTICE.

I beg to notify my many Customers in Matamata and surrounding Districts that I have disposed of my Business at Pharmaceutical Chemist in Arawa Street to MR. R. C. REID as from 1st May.

I sincerely thank all for their past generous patronage and would solicit that the same generous support be accorded my successor.

J. CORBETT, M.P.S.

In taking over the above Business I hope that by courtesy and strict attention to the requirements of all I may merit the continued confidence of past customers and the patronage of new residents.

R. C. REID, M.P.S.

Matamata Record 13 May 1940

Newspaper mentions confirm James was still greatly interested in Matamata affairs and in January 1940 was a generous donor to the Matamata Centennial Memorial Fund.¹ He was still very active at the Racing Club, not only racing his own horses but also donating prizes.

James Corbett died on December 13th 1945. In July 1946 one of the races at the Matamata Course was the J. Corbett Memorial Steeplechase.²

A long obituary was published in the Matamata Record of December 17th 1945. (*next page*).

¹ Matamata Record 11 October 1940

² Matamata Record 8 August 1946

MR. JAMES CORBETT

The death has occurred at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital of Mr. James Corbett, of Hikutaia, formerly a well known business man and sportsman of Matamata. Mr. Corbett died after an illness which actually had lasted for many years, and which first made itself evident while he was on a trip to the Old Country, which included a visit to relatives in Ireland. This trip was curtailed and Mr. Corbett later retired from his pharmacy business at Matamata. He was also well known at Te Aroha and, later, Devonport, where he served and completed his apprenticeship. In the realm of sport of most kinds Jim Corbett rose to the top in everything he took on. This was through ability, straightness and popularity. He

was one of those who "set" anything he entered into. From a novice he became champion, club captain and vice-president of the first golf club he joined, Rocky Downs (Matamata). When the Rocky Downs and the newly-formed Matamata club were combined he again became club captain and vice-president.

Although he did not race a string of horses Jim Corbett usually owned a good one, two of his notables being Dark Marble and The Cardinal. When in Ireland he purchased the thoroughbred entire Robin Hyde as a youngster, but he proved to be one of those Old Country entires that were impracticable from a racing point of view. He is now getting some very nice foals.

After serving on the committee of the Matamata Racing Club for many years Jim Corbett became president, and again proved to be most progressive and popular. With the secretary, Mr. B. C. Taylor, and a strong committee, he formulated a policy which included the club's first stand, and did much to place the club in its present position.

Jim Corbett had vision and 100 per cent. belief in the town and district of Matamata as a rising centre, as was indicated by his purchase of several town properties at prices which were then considered almost ridiculous, but which since have proved cheap. Although he had not resided at Matamata for several years he maintained some of his financial interests, and maintained a keen thought for the welfare of the host of friends he had made in his

approximately 20 years period of residence.

Mr. Corbett was also an active member and executive of the Matamata Tennis Club, and a foundation member of the Matamata Club (social).

The funeral took place at the Omahu (Goldfields) Cemetery on Saturday, after a service at Hikutaia Catholic Church. Among the mourners were Messrs. B. C. Taylor (Matamata Racing Club), and H. G. Keeley (Matamata Golf Club). He leaves his younger brother, Pat, and four sisters, Margaret, Kitty, Winnie and Norah, to mourn their loss.

APPENDIX -The Dublin Horse Show & the purchase of**Monday**

DUBLIN is crowded with visitors for Horse Show week and to-day encourages the hope that fine weather will favour what promises to be the greatest show in the history of the Royal Dublin Society.

A serious situation has arisen between Japan and Soviet Russia in consequence of another frontier incident on the Soviet-Manchukuo frontier. A six-hours battle is reported to have taken place between Soviet and Japanese troops near Vladivostok where the frontiers of Russia, Manchukuo and Korea meet. The Russians, it is stated, have lost 30 dead and almost 200 wounded.

To-day brings news of a big Nationalist counter offensive against the Spanish Reds in the Ebro sector.

Frau Dollfuss, widow of the murdered Austrian Chancellor, and her three children have left Boulogne for England where they hope to find asylum.

Neither the Czechs nor the Germans appear to be enamoured of Lord Runciman's coming visit to Prague as mediator on the Sudeten German issue. One Czech newspaper suggested that Lord Runciman might be better employed as a mediator in Palestine, India or Ireland.

Tuesday

THE opening day of Dublin's great Horse Show was marred by the almost continuous rain which fell in Dublin to-day. In spite of that, however, over 12,000 people braved the weather, and put in an appearance at Ballsbridge.

The sales of bloodstock yearlings were well patronised, and the top price of the day was 670 guineas, paid by Johnny Dines, former Irish jockey, for a bay filly the progeny of Scarlet Tiger. In the military jumping competition Captain Chevalier (France) carried off 1st and 2nd prize with Captain R. B. Sheppard (England) 3rd and 5th and Oberleutenant Huck (Germany) 4th.

The chances of war between Soviet Russia and Japan, arising out of the recent series of incidents on the Manchukuo border, are by no means remote. A spokesman of the Japanese Foreign Office stated that Japan is maintaining a non-provocative attitude as far as possible, but, he added, "there are limits to our patience." Japan's big military commitments in China are no doubt exercising a powerful influence for "patience" on the part of Tokio.

At a meeting of the Belfast Corporation to-day protests made by the Nationalist minority against the constitution of the Chairman's Committee and the discrimination shown against Nationalist members, were joined in by a Unionist Alderman—Mr. Pierce. Ald. Byrne (Nationalist) drew attention to the fact that not a single Catholic or Nationalist was appointed on the Chairman's Committee.

Ald. Pierce (Unionist) said: "In view of what has happened, if I were in the Nationalists' shoes I would make it difficult for you to carry on the work of the Corporation." Several other Unionist and Independent Unionist members having indicated their opposi-

world.

Continued from preceding column

tion to the Chairman's Committee as constituted, Ald. Pierce handed in notice of motion to have the committee—which it transpired was appointed to deal *inter alia* with salaries, wages and their grading—abolished.

Wednesday

MUCH interest is centred in Lord Runciman's visit to Czecho-Slovakia. The Czecho-Slovak Parliament met yesterday for less than half an hour and adjourned *sine die*. Later Mr. Hodza, the Premier, presided at a meeting of the Republican Party, the strongest unit in the Government bloc, and a resolution was adopted welcoming the visit of Lord Runciman and declaring that the Government was anxious to do everything possible to facilitate the successful accomplishment of his mission.

Mr. Hodza has written to Herr Kundt fixing to-day for the opening of *pourparlers* between the Sudeten German Party representatives and the political Ministers. The Polish and Hungarian national groups are also submitting memoranda in their cases, while the Slovak autonomists decided to submit their case to Lord Runciman after his arrival.

The struggle between Soviet and Japanese troops in the disputed Chang-kufeng and Shaotsaoing areas appears to be continuing, and to-day news tells of an attack launched by Soviet troops against the strategic hill. The border incidents are being watched keenly in Berlin and Rome. The general view is, however, that neither Russia nor Japan want war at present in spite of the fact that, as one German paper puts it, "Bolshevism brandishes the torch."

Red successes on land and in the air are claimed by a communique issued by the Barcelona Government. An attack by Spanish Nationalist forces on the Red lines in the Ebro zone was repulsed, it is claimed, and it is also claimed that six Nationalist planes were brought down in an air battle near Gandera.

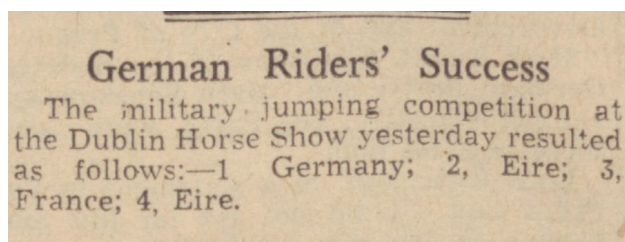
Thursday

"Douglas
Hyde"

Catholic Standard 5
August 1938 (Dublin)



Western Morning News, 3
August, 1938 (Plymouth,
Devon)



Western Morning News, 4 August 1938,
(Plymouth, Devon)

Imported by the Governor-General, Viscount Galway, a golden Labrador retriever dog has arrived at Auckland from Liverpool by the Port. Townsville. The dog will be landed at Wellington. Another interesting animal brought by the ship was an Irish-bred yearling colt imported by Mr P. Corbett, Hikutaia, Thames. The colt, Douglas Hyde, is by Interlace from Citoyenne.

Manawatu Standard, 16 October 1938

IRISH-BRED COLT.

IN J. CATHRO'S STABLE

END OF KILLADAR

The Irish bred colt Douglas Hyde is now in training here, being located at J. W. Cathro's stable (says our Matamata correspondent). At present he is on the gross side, but should be ready for summer racing. Although only a two-year old he will have to race as a three-year old in New Zealand, but he is a big colt, and should not be unduly handicapped in this respect. Douglas Hyde was purchased by Mr. J. Corbett, of Matamata, owner of Kaspian and The Cardinal, at the Dublin sales last year. He is by Interlace, and therefore a close relative to Defoe.

Heskatoon, Kaspian and The Cardinal, members of the Cathro stable, are well forward, and will be ready for spring racing. A two-year colt by Surveyor—Queen Street, a three-year filly, Kilcash (Muskatoon—Mussie), and a three-year filly Sweet Nothing (Lysander—After Hours) are being worked by Cathro, but are backward. The two last-mentioned are owned by Mr. P. Corbett and the Misses W. and M. Corbett respectively. All these members of the Corbett family have previously been represented by winners, Mr. P. Corbett by Mussie, Hikutaia and Huskie, and the Misses Corbett by Emancipation.

Auckland Star 11 August 1939

Matamata A. & P. Show Prize List.

LIGHT HORSES

Judge: Mr. J. H. Evans (Tauranga).

THOROUGHBRED HORSES

Brood Mare: Miss Gwynn Johnston's Grand Talk 1, Earl Johnston's Neon 2, J. Clothier's Lady Lock 3.

Two-year-old: J. Corbett's Douglas Hyde 1, G. Campbell's Surpeen 2.

Yearling: E. L. Robinson's Payore 1, Mrs. P. A. Martin's Paymaster 2, E. Johnston's Dianne 3.

Foal: J. McSweeney 1, E. Johnston's Marsala 2, S. J. Brindle's Kai-manawa 3.

Matamata Record, 6 March 1939

THE GROSVENOR FIRE. INMATES LOSE HEAVILY.

Brigade's Hopeless Task.

The fire which destroyed Black's Boardinghouse early on Monday morning was the second occasion on which a building on this site has been burned down. The first building was erected by Mr. J. McIntyre, for his mother, who bought the section about 1906 for £20, the title being L.I.P. This building was purchased from Mrs. McIntyre by Mr. J. Steen, and was burned down about 1911. A new building—the one recently destroyed—was erected by Mr. J. Steen and tenanted by Mrs. Connell. Mr. Black took over in 1919, purchasing from Mr. Steen, and has had possession ever since.

Practically everyone in the house last Sunday night sustained severe losses by the fire. Mr. J. Corbett, who, after being awakened, ran to the seat of the fire to see if there was any chance of putting it out, found that at that time the fire had a good hold and was bursting through the walls and roof of the lumber room. As his room was only four doors away, he had to hurriedly pack what he could into a drawer and get out. Though he managed to save the bulk of his personal effects, a prized set of silver links and other similar small but valuable articles were overlooked, as well as his golf clubs. These he had left on the verandah and quite overlooked.

Mr. J. Cummings, who is a heavy sleeper and had to be called twice, lost practically all his belongings. After running over to the post office to ensure the alarm getting through, he then had to shift his car from near the building. He had left the car out in preparation of getting it to the garage to have a defect remedied on the Monday morning. Owing to the frost the car was slow to start, and he found on his return that it was impossible to save the contents of his room, which included many treasured articles, including a collection of war souvenirs. Mr. Cummings had an insurance policy on his personal belongings, but some of his losses cannot be replaced.

Another heavy loser by the fire was Miss A. Cummings, who was a permanent guest. At the time she was in Auckland for the week-end, and thus lost everything, though her effects are thought to be covered by insurance.

Mr. E. McIntyre, of the Bank of New Zealand, also lost practically everything, as did Misses de Silva, a member of the staff. Miss Lowe, another member of the staff, saved all her belongings.

Mr. and Mrs. Black, who were naturally concerned with the welfare of their guests, lost everything with the exception of a few articles of clothing, and a Maori, Mr. Heke, of Putaruru, lost his belongings, including £3, which he had placed under his pillow.

Mr. and Mrs. Black were hospitably cared for by Mr. and Mrs. Flower, at whose home practically all of the inmates of the house had breakfast. Matamata residents generally were not slow in offering hospitality to all those who had thus suddenly been rendered homeless.

One of the staff at the Grosvenor was Miss Bernard, an Australian. Miss Bernard recently endeavoured to book from Sydney by the Manuka, but found there was not a berth left. On that trip the Manuka went down. Coming to Auckland by the next boat she was invited to stay with two girl friends, but put off going there till next day. That night the girls' house was burned down. Coming to Matamata Miss Bernard was a member of the party in Mr. Black's car when it capsized a few weeks ago and last week-end she went to visit her girl friends who were at National Park, and while she was away the Grosvenor was burned.

The Matamata Fire Brigade, with that promptitude which has earned them an enviable reputation, were early on the scene, and did sound work. Their task, however, was hopeless from the start. The building, raised as it was round about the seat of the fire several feet from the ground, together with the corridors and well in the centre, proved like a funnel. Fanned by the southerly breeze, the flames spread from the seat of the outbreak, which was on the windward side, with great rapidity, making the fire-fighting task an impossible one.

Asked about the water supply, the superintendent of the brigade stated that he was told there was a pressure of 160lb, but in his opinion it was only about 100lb to the square inch. A heavier pressure, of at least 130lb, would have been more acceptable to the brigade, but, in the circumstances of this fire, would have made little difference.

Some comment has been made in regard to the fact that supervision of the ruins, after the fire was put out, was not carried out. In a total loss by fire, however, this work does not devolve on the fire brigade, who only leave a man in charge till the adjuster arrives, when a partial save has been made. As it was, brigade members ordered many juveniles who were souvenir hunting, away long after the building was destroyed.

Matamata Record September 11th 1930

Summary of properties found to be owned at
some point by James CORBETT.

Found as at 4th January 2026

- Section 4, Block IV Matamata Town - Regent Theatre
- Section 9, Part Section 105, Block II, Tapapa Survey District. (somewhere north of Beatty Road) - title still to be found.
- Section 10, as above
- Section 2, Block IV, Matamata Town, Corbett's Building (Dollar Shop)
- Section 1, Block IV, Matamata Town, ANZ Bank corner.
- Section 3, Block VI, Matamata Town, Corner Broadway & Arawa Street from Osteria down to the old BNZ bank building.
- Section 10 Block VII, (Part of.) Matamata Town. Professional Chambers, Arawa Street, (Building with Red Cross in it).
- Section 7 Block XVII, Matamata Town. Hohaia Street. (The Catholic Church is on Section 1 of this block.)