The man with the MIDAS TOUCH

**In racing circles they say that wealthy owner Mr. E. R. Williams has the Midas touch, for his success in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales has been phenomenal.**

For the last season his horses earned him £17,659 in Sydney alone, and made him the most successful owner.

But Mr. Williams, retail store magnate, philanthropist and racehorse owner, says: "I have never had a bargain as long as I have been associated with racing."

Mr. Williams races stayers only. "You can’t win a Melbourne Cup or a Derby with a sprinter," he says.

"I have had pretty long experience at racing and select my own yearlings.

"First, I pick a yearling out of a mare which has shown good form at racing.

"Hydrogen is out of Sweet Sound, Pride of Egypt out of Civic Pride, and Lord Forrest out of High Class."

"I get a sire with good staying lines, and then I go and bid for them."

**Sold at a loss**

Mr. WILLIAMS is not found wanting at the sale ring although he has sold many horses at well below what he paid for them.

"Take Fashoda for example," he said. "I paid 2,800 guineas for him, and when I sold him got back £371/9.

"Sepet cost me 1,800 guineas and only won one race, Argentina cost me 2,500 guineas and was sold for £200. Nitrogen cost 4,000 guineas and was sold for 250."

"It is hard to get a stayer to remain sound for racing. The long and hard preparation can be more damaging than the actual racing."

"If a horse goes wrong you have got to wait too long to find out whether he will race again. I prefer to get rid of them rather than wait."

"You’ve got to be prepared for disappointments on the turf, I am not in racing for a living but only for the fun I get out of it."

Mr. Williams’ first connection with racing was about a decade ago when an owner who was not doing too well had a horse at Newcastle, but had no money to back it.

Through a mutual friend, Mr. Williams bought a half interest in the horse, which ran second, beaten by a fraction of an inch.

The part-owner was in worse financial straits after the race.