

RED NAGS FOR NATIONAL

Thundering hoofs on the Russian Steppes; Cossacks in full gallop; a long time Russian legend really based on fact. Superb horsemen, the Russians, today as in the past. No wonder they want to enter our Grand National.

They're not only riders of the open spaces, there's flat racing in Russia; jockeys and horses up to western standard. And not long ago a Russian horse won first place in the great Czechoslovakian steeplechase. He was Epigraph, taking jumps here of Aintree proportions.

Suppose Epigraph is allowed to run in the National as Russians hope? He and two others they want to enter would challenge the best English and Irish competition. Will they be starters next March at Aintree? It's doubtful, because the recent spread of African Horse Disease has reached Turkey, on Russia's border, so our Government says no horses from the Soviet may enter Britain. A few years ago, guest of Aintree chief Mrs. Topham, to see how they fall, was Russian Premier Malenkov. Soon afterwards, he fell himself. What a sensation if the winner next time were a Russian horse. Vodka would flow like the River Mersey.