

FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

Horse Memoirs

(O. E. MacKenzie)

(C. E. Mackenzie)

The recent letter from Captain John L. Read on colt stakes is timely and should receive the earnest thought and consideration of every one connected with the future racing activities of our province.

In reading over what had been accomplished in the early nineties when colt stakes were in vogue and the ultimate results on our Maritime racing, I feel that I am safe in backing up the genial Captain in asking for serious consideration of colt stakes.

Under present conditions what encouragement are we giving to the breeding of harness horses, when one who has sufficient coin can attend the Old Oulie or some other sale of colts and used trotters and is able to procure anything from a \$40 starter to a free-for-all.

Would it not be better business for this province to foster the breeding of speed horses by the re-establishment of colt stakes?

At the present time we have quite a large number of well bred and speedy mares which if mated to any of the good sires in the province would in a very few years produce "lots of speed."

In such horses as "Long Set," "Bud Axworthy," "Bellini Scott," "Great Scott," "Kalmuck," "Alworthy," "Great Axworthy," and the home grown sons of Captain Aubrey, "Colonel Aubrey," "Great Hal," and others we have the breeding and I am convinced that the progeny of our Island matrons if given a proper chance and an early education will be able to hold their places with all comers.

Let us think the Colt Stake problem over and build for a better future.

I am throwing out this suggestion, namely, that owners of stallions and officers of our race tracks get together on this matter and work out a solution whereby colt races will be a feature at some Island meets and that one event at least at all tracks will be eligible only for Island or Maritime bred horses.

This same holds good not only with racing but also in athletics, more especially in hockey. Just imagine how much more interest would be shown in this popular game if all the contestants were Maritime men and strictly amateurs. We are getting away from real sport when our only object is to get a team to trim the other fellow, no matter where we go to get them.

Getting back to earlier times in the year 1888 the list of horses bred in the Maritimes with records of three minutes or better numbered ninety one and in the following nine years the list from 2.10 to 2.30 numbered over one hundred, either Maritime bred or from mares bred in the provinces.

In 1888 there was not a single provincial bred trotter then owned in the Maritimes which was in the charmed circle and there were only forty four owned in the provinces which had records better than 2.40. Black Pilot 2.30 1-4 had the best record of a province bred horse still owned in the Maritimes and

it was not till 1891 that Israel trotted in 2.28, being the first horse raised in the provinces to beat 2.30 over a provincial track. Minnie Grey did the trick the same year, making a record of 2.30, she being the first Maritime bred mare to trot in 2.30 over a Maritime track.

In 1891 only these two at home made the charmed circle but six years later saw nearly sixty trotters and pacers bred and owned in the Maritimes with records of 2.30 or better and four of these were in the 2.20 list.

The Maritime colt stakes had greatly assisted in developing the youngsters and not only had we several four year olds provincial bred with records of 2.30 or better but we also had our three year olds in the charmed circle.

In 1893 there were only seven Maritimes bred horses at home and abroad which had entered the list and during the following seven years almost one hundred of our horses had gone into the charmed circle, over half of which were still owned in the Maritimes and over forty owned or bred on P. E. Island.

Of these forty, seven were sired by Allright, five by Preceptor, three by Abdallah Messenger, three by Dean Swift, two by Hernandez, one by Black Pilot and three by Parkside, while such Island horses as Belmont Wilkes, "Neptune Lee," "Black Sporter," "Island Chief," "French Lion," "Sir John Dean," "Rileys Dean," Harry Morgan, Welslan and others had one or more representatives in the charmed circle.

The writer has before him the summary of the Charlottetown races on September 22nd and 23rd, 1897 and I know that our present day racing fans will be interested when I give them to Guardian readers.

The first race on this card was the 2.35 class with twelve entries facing the starter. It took seven heats to decide a winner, the race going to the bay mare Bye and Bye, a daughter of Administrator Right, owned by Owen Hughes. Montrose Cross and driven by the veteran John McCabe being placed 11 4 7 th 2 1 all heats better than 2.30, the final being the fastest in the race 2.25 1-2. Shaver, a son of Preceptor owned by Andrew MacRae, Charlottetown Royalty and driven by Albert Craswell, Rustico, capturing the fourth and sixth heats in 2 23 1-4 and 2.26. Beau Prince a son of Hernandez won the third heat in 2.28 but was drawn after the fifth heat. Of the twelve entries seven were either Island bred or Island owned, namely: Bye and Bye, Shaver, "Hataau," "Herdic," "Fleetwood," Beau Prince and Minnie. In the free-for-all class there were six starters, three of which were Island bred and one sired by an Island bred horse, namely, Montrose by Belmont Wilkes, Parkland by Parkside Bijou by Administrator and Downee by Black Pilot.

The race was another seven heat event, Montrose capturing the first and second in the remarkable time of 2.21 1-4 and 2.20 3-4; Warren Guy the third in 2.21; Minota the fourth and fifth in 2.22 1-2 and 2.23 1-2; Flashlight won the first heat in 2.27; Montrose the second and third in 2.27 1-2 and 2.28. Bye and Bye being placed fourth; the other starters being Butt'n by Bronze Chief, Kickapoo by Preceptor, All Bird by Preceptor and Billie MacKie by All Right.

Never in the history of Charlottetown track had there been such a large field of starters, so little breaking and everything carried out so smoothly.

This meeting put seven horses in the 2.30 list giving several of them low marks and broke a number of records. Twenty heats were trotted better than 2.30 and 2.40: 1-2 was the slowest heat of the meeting. Montrose trotted thirteen heats, four of which he won. The Maritime record was broken by Montrose, Warren Guy and Minota.

In the above account the writer missed giving an account of the three year old class which was won by May Fashion, a roan filly by St. Macy in straight heats, time 2.40 1-2, 2.36 1-2, 2.36 1-4; Wilmont a son of Rompart second and Eogers Lad by Parkside third. Mr. W. S. MacKie, Charlottetown, was one of the judges at this meet, the others being Dr. J. H. Reed, Guelph and Dr. Jakeman, V. S., Halifax.

What is said to be the first tree kangaroo born in captivity was the recent event in the Zoo in London, England. The mother is a native of New Guinea.

Colt Races

(J. M. Nicholson)

The trend of the times is distinctly toward colt racing, and especially toward more, and more valuable, opportunities for money winning by two year olds. The necessity to stimulate breeding in the Maritime Provinces is in part responsible for this, while the unmistakable interest shown by the entire racing public also factors. Colt races are popular with all classes and their steadily increasing popularity will have the direct effect of increasing the production of material for them. One of the stock objections to the present system of trotting horse breeding is that the breeder has no adequate market for his products without waiting so long that his profits usually vanish; this being due to the fact that colt trotters have so few opportunities for money-winning as compared with aged horses, that the breeder, as a rule derives little or no benefit from the performances of horses that he breeds. More, and more valuable races for colts especially for two-year-olds, are in line with present day conditions and demands.

There is another angle of the game I would like to touch on, and that is, there is no provision made for the man of moderate means that owns a second-flight horse whose speed proclivities stagger when the 2.20 or 2.25 notches on the chronometer are ticked by it. To help him out why not make a 2.30 class for trotters, and a 2.30 class for pacers and bar horses with tin-cup records, winrace records, heat records, and machine records better than 2.29 1-4 and give the second raters a chance. Now a horse with a tin-cup record of 1.58 can start in a 3 minute class which puts the small owner out of business. If these races are ever realized it remains with the managers of the various tracks in the Maritime Provinces and it would seem that in the language of the old-time melodrama "the hour has struck." But with "the hour" is also needed "the man." It is only by a conjunction of these two things get accomplished. We imagine "the man" will be found—and that the rest will follow.

The 2.10 and Warren Guy the sixth and seventh in 2.21 1-2 and 2.19 1-2; Parkland placed fourth and Bijou fifth.

On the following day in the three minute event there were six starters, the race going five heats. Pardec an Amherst entry winning the first fourth and fifth heats in 2.29 1-2; 2.35 1-4 and 2.32 1-2; Minnie a daughter of Administrator owned by James MacLeod, Sumneride and driven by John Stee's, winning the second and third heats in 2.26 1-2 and 2.31; third money going to Lady Rampart owned by T. B. Messenger, Wolfville, N. S.

The 2.28 class had eight starters seven of which were Island bred horses and took six heats to decide a winner, Bijou a black gelding by Administrator bred by Mr. Layton McCabe, Alexandria and later owned by M. A. Henderson, Sussex, N. B., winning the fourth, fifth and sixth heats in 2.30, 2.29 and 2.33 1-2; Flashlight won the first heat in 2.27; Montrose the second and third in 2.27 1-2 and 2.28. Bye and Bye being placed fourth; the other starters being Butt'n by Bronze Chief, Kickapoo by Preceptor, All Bird by Preceptor and Billie MacKie by All Right.

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NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

GOING, OR GONE!

Thinking over my remarks about the shooting of the sea-cow (or walrus) which visited the Island in 1928, I was reminded that there is a long list of animals either extinct, or on the road to extinction. Those mentioned in this Note will, with one exception, be found to be victims of the arch-enemy, Man. The exception is the herd of wild cattle at Chillingham, Northumberland, England; this herd has come down to us from pre-Roman times, and as Lord Tankerville cannot any longer maintain it, it has been saved only by the public donating a sufficient amount to "carry on." In this case mankind has preserved a historic race from extinction.

But nobody intervened to save the Dodo. This remarkable bird of the Mauritius was finally exterminated about the year 1690, by sailors who visited the Island, and were actuated, as far as we can judge, solely by thoughtless cruelty.

The Great Auks were found on the North Atlantic coasts in countless numbers, one hundred years ago. Now only a few stuffed specimens and some eggs may be found in the museums. These birds were exterminated for their feathers: driven into stone corals, by the million, they were killed, plucked and their bodies left to rot.

The Passenger Pigeon once existed in enormous numbers over a great extent of the American continent. Alexander Wilson, in the early nineteenth century described a great flight which passed overhead for three hours, and which he estimated at a billion and a quarter! About 1810 there arose professional market hunters, who exported their catches by the barrel and car-load. One man caught, (netted) and delivered 2,000 dozen pigeons in ten days. By 1900 they were gone in the wild state, and the last survivor died in the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens in 1914.

The Labrador Duck was formerly found from Long Island Sound north to Labrador, though it would appear, never very abundantly. These birds were occasionally sent to market in New York. Their record, says Reed, has been traced down to 1875, since which time none have been taken. They also can be written off!

The South African "blaubok" (blue-buck), a kind of deer became extinct about the year 1800. The Manchurian deer had been reduced to 200 in 1900, and these were exterminated by the "Boxer" rebels. In Asia this animal is extinct but a small herd is kept by the Duke of Bedford. While the American bison (the so-called "buffalo") has been saved "by the skin of its teeth," as the old saying has it, the European Bison, the finest and largest of the fauna of that continent, was blotted out during the war. It used to inhabit the Caucasus district. A few specimens survive in captivity but show no signs of multiplying and it is only a matter of a few years and their place will know them no more. The criminal waste connected with the slaughter of the American bison is only too well known.

The African elephant is "up against it" in two ways. It is hunted for its ivory tusks, which have given rise to an enormous trade; and beside this it is the incessant enemy of the settler whose crops it tramples and destroys. And as it is intractable and cannot be trained like the Indian elephant, there is no motive for preserving it, so that it is doubtful if any will be extant a couple of generations hence.

The rhinoceros is another disappearing animal. It is hunted for the sake of its horn which is supposed by the Chinese to have a medicinal value. It is doubtful if any of the Javan species still remain, and of the African white rhinoceros less than 300 are to be found; in two communities, one in Zululand, and the other near the source of the Nile. The African Black Rhinoceros, and the hippopotamus are also getting scarce.

The Quagga, a striped horse once found in South Africa, became extinct about 50 years ago. Its relative, Burchell's Zebra, is also gone, and Grevy's zebra, of the mountains near Victoria Nyanza, is going. The gorilla, too, is ear-marked for extinction: its numbers were never great, and only its preference for the remote jungle has saved it so far. But man is encroaching on the jungle everywhere, and will certainly kill off his ferocious neighbor.

The nyala, a jungle-deer, the eland, the kudu, and the sable, are other animals whose depleted numbers forbode early extinction. The great "schools" of Arctic whales have been wiped out, and the tragedy is now carried over to the Antarctic. The sea-cow proper of the North Pacific was exterminated in the year 1768, and the walrus which formerly occurred in goodly numbers in P. E. Island, are now no more.

Our wild birds, with the exception of some imported species, are declining in numbers, and the danger of such a situation is that an epidemic of some sort may strike in and make an end of the weakened genera.

NESTING BOX COMPETITION

I hope my little friends who are going to try for this competition have already written to the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, for Dr. Taverner's bulletin on bird boxes. In the meantime, whilst waiting for the pamphlet, they may be working from the plan of a bird box given in the Family Herald of March 29th, which comes in very apposite. Remember that not less than three boxes must be put out and they should not be too close together, for some birds are "jealous minded"—that is, they set up a sort of territorial claim and quarrel with, or chase off, any intruders.

A real danger to the occupants of bird boxes, or rather to their nestlings, is the ubiquitous squirrel. Young observers assure me that they have seen the squirrels eat young birds from the nest. The blue jay, crow, and grackle must be guarded against by making the entrance of the nest-box just in the right dimensions; these are given in the aforementioned pamphlet.

The "English"—more properly "Domestic"—sparrow, is inclined to drive off the proper owner, and annex its nest. If the nest box is not put higher than ten feet from the ground it is not likely to be troubled with sparrows, since these pests prefer more inaccessible places, more in keeping with their suspicious natures. More about the competition next week.

ODDS AND ENDS

An Odd Catch. Sitting quietly reading the other night, I heard a "noise in the wall," which sounded as if a mouse was stirring. As the noise were all cleared out last fall, I was rather surprised, but, like the Scot in the history book, I wanted to "mak sear," so I baited a trap in the pantry—the likeliest place for a mouse. About an hour later I heard it snap, but there was nothing in it. I re-set it, and nothing further happened that night; next morning I gave a look, and there it was, upside down again. This time it held one of our smallest mammals, a shrew, or shrew-mouse as some call it. The body, together with the head of the little creature, measured about an inch and a half, while the tail was somewhat shorter. The head has an elongated snout. The scientific name of this tiny mammal is Sorex personatus personatus, the duplication of the specific name showing that our animal is the typical form.

If you turn up Gilbert White's "Natural History of Selborne," you will find a good account of our forefathers' ideas as to the power of these creatures to "bewitch" other animals.

Water divination. I have received another letter affirming the writer's belief in the power of the switch to find water. There is unquestionably a wide-spread belief in the efficacy of the "art" but I notice that nobody has yet taken up J. B.'s challenge. It will be re-

New Glasgow

Institute

The New Glasgow Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Harland Hill on April 3rd, with seventeen members and two visitors present. Members answered the roll call by giving date and month of birthday. The minutes of previous meeting read and adopted. New school and sick committees appointed. Visiting sick, Mrs. M. McLeod and Mrs. P. L. Campbell. For school, Mrs. Herbert Stevenson and Miss Ruth Dickerson. After the correspondence was read it was moved, seconded and carried that the president and secretary fill in the questionnaires and send them to the different convenors. Next roll call will be answered by each member telling in what way. "The depression has affected me most." Refreshment committee, Mrs. Stewart Parkman, Mrs. R. W. Stevenson and Mrs. Morland Hill. Program committee, Mrs. R. W. Stevenson and Mrs. Harland Hill. Mrs. Stewart Parkman, President brought meeting to a close. The following entertainment was enjoyed: Chorus by Institute members. Reading, Mrs. Mervyn Bulman, Duets, Mrs. P. L. Campbell and Miss Harriet Weeks, Reading, Mrs. R. A. Houston, followed by a word building contest in which all took part. Dainty refreshments were then served by the committee in charge.

membered that this gentleman offered to publicly prove that the claim of the water finders were without foundation, or in other words that "the art was a fake." In these circumstances, to satisfy my own invincible curiosity, I have been thinking out some tests which I hope to apply during the coming summer.

The Horned Owl. A well developed specimen of this owl killed here recently. Its coloring was rather different from that illustrated in my "Bird Guide." There the bird is pictured as of a dark chestnut hue, but the specimen killed was largely a dingy black and grey—perhaps a winter plumage? For all its huge size it was very light in weight, and had evidently been starving. It is the belief in this district that this kind of owl is numerous, while the screech owl and others are said to be scarce. If so, it is a pity; for the night-flying owls are the farmer's friends. Some other owls have ear-tufts or "horns."

A triumvirate of planets. Just now Neptune, Jupiter, and Mars are all in the neighborhood of the fixed star Regulus. They were also all in opposition to the sun during the first fortnight in March. Their influence—whatever it is—will persist for some time yet.

ROMAN BRITAIN, A. D. 197-208.

The decisive battle of Lyons, which gave the Empire to Severus, was fought in February, 197. The victor immediately appointed one Virius Lupus as Governor of Britain, and this general led back the shattered remains of the British legions. Not before time: for great changes were taking place in the population of North Britain—changes which may have been due to some large immigration of foreign tribes, perhaps from the north of Europe. The Roman writers throw no light on the subject, beyond stating that the Caledonians had become more numerous, and that a new tribe under the name of Maestae had established themselves immediately to the north of the barrier of Antoninus. Dion Cassius, the historian of these events, informs us that these two were now the greatest of British tribes, for even the names of the other tribes had merged in them. He gives some odd gossip about their society and government, from which the following is selected. "They do not practise husbandry, but live by pasturage, the chase, and on berries which grow in the woods. They never taste fish, although their lakes and rivers furnish an inexhaustible supply. . . . They live in tents, naked and bare-footed, having their wives in common. . . . The government of these tribes is democratical, and they delight above all things in pillage. Their arms consist of a shield and a short spear. . . . they use daggers also. . . . They prepare for all emergencies a certain kind of food of which if they eat only so much as the size of a bean, they neither hunger nor thirst." Was this the origin of the "cold water porridge" which in after times was the emergency ration of the Scottish fighting man?

These turbulent tribes took advantage of the troubles which followed the insurrection of Albinus, and invaded the Roman province. The history of these invasions is extremely obscure, but we read that Virius Lupus was at length

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It was late in the year 206, but without a moment's delay, he called up the legions stationed in the province and having thus concentrated a vast force, marched north to meet the enemy. The latter were astonished at the energy and rapidity of his movements, and ceasing hostilities, sent envoys who met him, perhaps at Eburaecum (York), to beg for peace: at the same time offering to make amends for their previous offences. But Severus had come too far to be easily satisfied, and after detaining the envoys for some time, he sent them away without any answer to their overtures.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In Thursday's Newsy Notes I referred to the whales, dolphins, walrus, the sea-cows proper, the dugongs, manates and seals which are all Mammalia and are therefore not correctly described as "fishes." By the older naturalists all these creatures were included in the Order Cetacea; but now the seals and seal-like animals are grouped in a new Order, the Sirenia, because they resembled sirens or mermaids. At the present day the seals and walrus are separated from the Sirenia and placed among the Carnivora or flesh-eating mammals.

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