

FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

Horse Memoirs

(C. E. Mackenzie)

PACERS (C. E. Mackenzie) The records of the champion trotting stallions and mares in chronological order are of long standing but it was not till about the year 1915 that we had a list covering pacing horses.

It seems at first that pacers or as they were often called, rackers, were not in favor and as a result were not developed as such as one often notices that among earlier racers such and such a horse converted pacer, made a record.

For instance up to 1880 among the fastest records recorded we only have the records of two pacers compared with over forty trotters.

As the pacing horse is now as popular on the turf as the trotter and is being bred as scientifically, the following tables of the champion stallions, both for performance against time and in races will be of interest to Guardian readers.

On October 17th, 1866 at Detroit, Mich., "Dan Mahoney" a roan stallion of untraced breeding paced a sensational mile in 2:11-2 which record stood for thirteen years when Clinker, a black pacing stallion made the mile in 2:06-1-4 at Columbus, Ohio, on August 29th, 1879. This horse again ten years later at the age of seventeen beat his previous record pacing a mile in 2:20 flat at East Saginaw, Michigan.

record was not equaled until 1889 when Ray Wilkes a son of Adrien Wilkes made a mile in 2:13 at Cleveland, Ohio on July 31st 1889 and immediately after Brown Hal again lowered his record to 2:12 1-2 and the following year Ray Wilkes, at Independence lowered his for record to 2:09 on August 28th and two days later again lowered it to 2:08 1-4.

And in 1881 Direct a black stallion by Director 2:17 dam Echora 2:23 1-2 by Echo paced a mile at Independence on September 6th in 2:06 flat.

The next star performer as a pacer was the bay stallion John R. Gentry; this horse was foaled in 1889 and was bred by Ashland Wood a son of Wedgewood 2:19. In his five year old form he paced a mile at Terre Haute on September 14th in 2:03 3-4 and again two years later, twice in exhibition miles made the records of 2:03 1-2 and 2:03 1-4 and in September of the same year in a race at Glen Falls, New York, made a mile in 2:01 1-2 which he repeated at Portland, Maine, on September 24th in 2:00 1-2.

Joe Patchen also foaled in 1889, a son of Patchen Wilkes 2:29 1-2 dam Josephine Young, by Joe Young, paced a mile against time at Portland, Maine on August 21st 1896 in 2:03.

1889 seemed to have been a lucky year as the great Star Pointer was a colt of that year. This great horse was a son of Brown Hal 2:12-1-2 dam Sweetpeaks by Snow He's.

Star Pointer was the first pacer to beat two minutes, having paced a mile at Radville, Miss., on August 28th 1897 in the remarkable time of 1:59 1-4. Star Pointer 1:59-1-4 was not beaten by any pacer until 1903 when the famed Dan Patch made it the even 1:59. This horse which was a son of Joe Patchen 2:01 1-2 and Zelica by Wilkesberry, had the honor of lowering his own record no less than three times. In October 1903 he clipped 2 3-4 seconds off his previous record, making the mile in 1:56 1-4 and in 1904 reduced it to 1:56; again in 1905 he paced a mile against time in 1:55 1-4. Thus in a period of thirty nine years we had the pacing record reduced from 2:21 1-2 to 1:55 1-4—26 1-4 seconds clipped off pacing records.

The greater number of above records were made against time but the racing records of pacers from 1875 to 1907 is even more interesting—23 1-2 seconds off in thirty-seven years is surely a record to be proud of.

The above records are for pacing stallions and as can be seen, we have an unbroken line of pacing speed sires and while we in this province have never made pacing breeding a specialty, yet a great number of our Island bred racers have been side-wheelers.

Standard breeding admits both pacers and trotters and the progeny of a pacer and a trotter is eligible to registration according to standard rules; therefore up to the present there has not been much distinctive pacing breeding. There is no knowing what the outcome might be should one or more of our breeders start breeding a distinct breed of pacers.

FARMERS' ATTENTION

We have a most interesting proposition to offer to reliable potato growers near Charlottetown, in supplying their requirements in fertilizer as follows: One third cash, the remainder payment in the fall by potatoes at current market price. If you are interested, call at the office for further particulars.

This offer applies only to growers who intend to haul their potatoes to Charlottetown.

PAUL A. MURRAY, 1 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

9265-5-5-51

Aubrey 2:07 1-4. This horse, Great Hal, is a golden chestnut and his dam is Louz 2:13 1-4 by Direct Hal 2:04 1-4. Louz's dam Gertrude Pointer 2:16 1-4, a daughter of Sydney Pointer 2:07 1-4 a son of Star Pointer 1:59 1-4—he by Brown Hal 2:12 1-2.

Great Hal's dam Louz won three races in three successive days—time from 2:13 1-2 to 2:16. The above pedigree should give Great Hal distinction along pacing lines and with the wonderful staying powers inherited from the thoroughbred blood behind Captain Aubrey should make this handsome young stallion a valuable horse to this province.

Great Hal is owned by Dr. F. T. Bowness, Kensington, who is to be commended for his enterprise in bringing so valuable a horse to Prince Edward Island. At present Great Hal is under the care of H. J. Ferguson, Grahams Road, P. E. Island.

The fact that we have such a horse as Great Hal in this province would justify the "trying out" of breeding a line of distinct pacers here. I know that we have a large number of breezy and speedy young mares and a cross with Great Hal might be the means of producing extreme pacing speed.

Further reference to leading pacers brings to mind the performance of two wonderful horses during the first decade of this century. I refer to The Eel 2:02 1-3 and Earl Jr. 2:02 1-2—both these horses made their debut on the turf in 1908. The Eel made a sweeping campaign, running eight races, one second and one third and almost sixteen thousand dollars in stakes. He was at Minor Heir's wheel in 2:00 3-4 and took a record of 2:02 1-4 at Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Earl Jr. came out as a three year old, and in nine starts was six times first; once second, divided second and third money once and was third once.

The following year The Eel was the best free-for-all pacer on the circuit.

In 1910 Earl Jr. made a brilliant campaign and was never behind the money. He won seven firsts, three seconds and one fourth and took a record of 2:03 1-4 at Lexington, Kentucky, in a winning race—the last quarter of the first heat was 28 3-4 seconds,—a 1:55 clip; this horse running in 1910 won upwards of twenty thousand dollars.

It seems strange how pacers crop out in trotting blood; for instance Minnie Warren 2:26 3-4 the fastest colt credited to Dan Swift, was a pacer as also was Hamlet 2:15 1-4 by Neptune Lee and Jules Robin 2:20 1-4 by Abdallah Messenger; All these sires were trotters with a strong dash of thoroughbred blood.

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

MICE OF P. E. ISLAND A correspondent who was interested in the account of the little shrew-mouse, asks for information about the "kangaroo mouse." This is a name, coined locally, for what is known as the Hudson Bay Jumping Mouse, of which more anon. A few years ago I devoted some time to the study of our smaller rodents, and the results are embodied in this article.

Possibly the first definite list of these creatures was given by Francis Bain in 1890. He says in his "Natural History" that we have three (species of) field mice. "The common short-tailed Meadow Mouse lives on grain and grasses. It builds a nest of dry grass and makes long galleries under the snow in winter when it causes much destruction by barking young orchard trees. The white-footed mouse and the Hamster Mouse are less common. The domestic Mouse and Rat are European importations." The weakness of this list (as we shall see) lies in the use of local names instead of the recognized scientific designations.

The Meadow Mouse or Field Mouse (the Microtus pennsylvanicus Acaudus of Bangs) is sometimes called the Acaudian Vole. My specimen was identified by Dr. Anderson, Ottawa. "The Pennsylvania meadow mouse is a small species about as long in body as the house mouse, but much more heavily proportioned. Its head is rounded, the eyes small, and bead-like, the legs and tail are short, and the comparatively coarse fur is so long that it almost conceals the short rounded ears." (E. W. Nelson.) In England the smaller species are called "voles" or "bear mice" from their appearance; and the larger species, living about lakes and streams, are "water rats". Field mice abound from the Arctic barrens to the southern U.S.A., and at times become so numerous that they are a plague. In the winters from 1906 to 1908, they swarmed in the Humboldt Valley, Nevada, and destroyed 18,000 acres of alfalfa devouring even the roots. At this time the number of mice was estimated as high as 12,000 to the acre. It was their activity during the winter of 1918-9 that led me to study these destructive little creatures, as they had barked and ruined a fine nursery row of Norway maples which were ready for planting out. It is said that these mice are very prolific, having several litters, containing from four to eleven young, each year.

The white-footed mouse. This is the next on Bain's list, but I have not yet met with a specimen of it. There is, however, a mouse with this name which is to be found all over the North American continent from the Arctic Circle to Mexico; so that we are in its range, and it may well be here. To naturalists it is known as Peromyscus leucopus, and a description will help observers, in case it is found. It is a graceful little animal, usually a little larger and proportionately shorter-bodied than the house mouse from which it may at once be distinguished by the contrast between the delicate shades of fawn color, brown, or gray of the upper parts of the body, and the snowy white feet and under parts. As these mice do not hibernate they lay up a store of grain and seeds of many kinds, as well as acorns, beech nuts, pine nuts, etc., according to locality. Their summer fare is varied by a diet of insects, snails, and sometimes dead birds or other mice.

The Jumping Mouse: This I take to be the Hamster mouse of Bain's list, because the Hamster (a larger rodent) and the jumping mouse are both provided with cheek pouches into which they gather food to be carried to their hidden stores. Our Hudson Bay jumping mouse is the typical form, known to science as Zapus hudsonius hudsonius Zimmerman. Its distribution is over most of the northern parts of North America from the coast of Labrador to the Behring Sea coast of Alaska, and southward to North Carolina, Illinois, New Mexico and California. Over this wide range slight varietal differences have grown up (known as geographical races) but our particular form is accepted as the standard type from which the others have evolved, and this is shown by the duplication of the specific name.

The jumping mouse is easily distinguished. Its strongest characters are a rufous, rusty yellowish color, a slender body about three inches long, a remarkably slender tail about five inches in length, and long hind legs and feet, like those of a little kangaroo. (E. W. Nelson.) The little creature can take most extraordinary leaps, sometimes covering ten feet in a single bound. The long tail serves as a balance, and if by any accident one of these mice loses its tail, "whenever it jumps it is thrown into a series of somersaults, turning helplessly over and over in the air." Unlike the other mice they hibernate during the cold weather. Their food appears to be berries, seeds and nuts.

A close observer of our natural objects once told me that he had found the red-backed mouse, Eutamias gapperi, on the Island. Although I have never seen it myself, I see no reason to doubt its presence, for it occurs from the Arctic tundras right down through Alaska and Canada to the northern United States. Though closely related to the Meadow Mouse, it has a decided preference for the woodlands, and does not force itself so unpleasantly upon our notice by attacking the crops and injuring the orchards. Readers will do well to watch for this little creature which is "the most brightly colored of all the smaller northern rodents." It is about the same size as the Meadow Mouse but has a rufous or reddish coloration, finer and more glossy fur, larger ears. The House Mouse, mus musculus, and the brown rat, rattus (or epimys), norvegicus, are only too well known. "The success of both the house mouse and the house rat in establishing themselves so successfully in all parts of the world, in the face of the antagonism of mankind, affords marvellous examples of physical and mental adaptability not equaled elsewhere among mammals."

The two remaining mouse-like animals belong to the Order Insectivora and Bain refers to them thus: "These little animals have sharp canines and three-pointed molar teeth. The mole is a small animal with thick fur and deeply-sunken eyes which burrows in waste lands and feeds on worms and grubs. The little shrew mole burrows under stumps and explores the grass lands for insects. Its tiny chain like tail is often seen on the snow in winter."

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

NOTICE

In accordance with Section 12 of "The Road Act 1928", all persons, liable for road tax or horse tax, desiring to commute the cash payment of same, must notify the tax collector in the School District in which they reside, on or before the First day of May next.

Blank Forms necessary for same may be obtained from the tax collector of the School District in which they reside.

The time for giving the above notice has been extended to the 10th day of May, 1933.

G. SHELTON SHARP, Minister of Public Works and Highways.

Charlottetown, P. E. I. April 26, 1933.

commercialized, and when life in the country was still redolent of the homely virtues. And if after the fashion of the times, she sometimes halts the action of the story to indulge in a kind of moralizing, the effect still is pleasing. Thus: "To be busy is certainly half-way to being happy. And yet it is not so with every kind of labor. Some occupations, however, do seem of themselves to be peace-bringing; I mean, to be so independent of the great good of being occupied at all. Gardening, sketching, and natural history pursuits for instance. Is it partly because one follows them in the open air, in great measure? Fresh air, that mysteriously mighty power for good! Anodyne, as well as tonic; dispeller of fever when other remedies are powerless; and the best accredited recipe for long life. Only partly, I think.

"One secret of the happiness of some occupations is, perhaps, that they lift one away from petty cares and petty spleens, without trying the brain or strength unduly, as some other kinds of mental labor must do. And how delightful is fellowship in such interests. What rivalries without bitterness; what gossip without scandal; what gifts and exchanges; what common interests and mutual sympathy!" Reader, after that, are you not tempted to take up a hobby? Bird Houses Bird houses should be got out without delay. The should not look too new, and they should not be too close together. Try a variety of situations, and put down your experiences. Next week the rules of the Bird House contest will be repeated for the last time. The British House of Lords has passed a bill making it an offence to capture any of the wild birds such as sky larks, linnets, finches and other small song birds. This will put out of action a great number of bird-catchers, who led a kind of vagabond life, rambling the woods and hedges and snaring the birds with "limed" twigs. The birdlime was made by boiling holly-bark until a glutinous product resulted; and this was smeared on short thin twigs, which were placed in the hedge rows. If a bird came into contact with this, the twigs do the feathers, and hampered the victim, so that it was easily caught.

FERTILIZERS

Mr. Farmer: It is important that you plan your work so that when the ground is fit to till seeding can be rushed to completion without delay. Now that the roads are dry haul your fertilizers. We can make quick delivery to your team or truck at our Plant or can ship you a carload at short notice.

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The Great Axworthy

REG. No. 3371 ENROLLMENT NO 1 This horse will make the season of 1933 at Lawndale Farm, East Royal. He has passed inspection by the Government. Out of seven entries at Charlottetown Exhibition his colts won five firsts, one second and one third. Also won sire and three of his get 1931-1932. His breeding and colts can be seen at the farm. Call and look them over. Terms:—\$10.00 when mare proves in foal. FRANK McKAY, Owner in Charge. 9199-5-3-wrm-31.

GROUND LIMESTONE

Write for NEW LOW PRICE Delivered to Island Points Brookville Mfg. Co., Ltd. (Operating Government Lime Plant) BROOKVILLE, N. B.

Correction

In the Guardian of April 29th there appeared an article entitled "Spraying the Home Orchard." In this article the third spray, first mixture, read as follows: "(1) Commercial lime sulphur, 1 gallon to 30 gallons water, arsenate of lime, 1 1/2 pounds to 50 gallons, 3 pounds hydrated lime." This should have read: "(1) Commercial lime sulphur 1 gallon to 50 gallons water, arsenate of lime 1 1/2 pounds to 50 gallons, 3 pounds hydrated lime.

Rearing Chicks

METHOD OF REARING AND FEEDING CHECKS ON DOMESTIC EXPERIMENTAL FARM CHARLOTTETOWN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND When the chicks are twenty-four hours old they are taken from the incubator and placed in the brooder at a temperature of around 95 degrees. Never allow the brooder to get beyond the 100 degree for any length of time. Each week lower the temperature a little so that in three weeks it ranges around 80 to 85 degrees. (Continued on Page Two)