

Back Stretch

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at Hollywood Park where the Western Harness Racing Association is holding its fall meeting which lasts to December 5. If ever there was a galaxy of speed that point should carry the honors because almost all the star trotters and pacers are now stabled there.

"Saturday Joe O'Brien in a rousing finish got Prince Jay home on the front end of a mile in 2:00 and to round out his afternoon, won with Wilmington Star with a mile in 2:00 2-5. Earlier in the week Claude brought Imprudent home in 2:03 2-5. I raised Imprudent and sold him last year to the present owner. He is a good horse out for most of the time had been in bad hands. It was a snatch mount for Claude and in my judgment he did a good job. He is a hard worker and spends very little time idling around. When I was cast I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. James Flood, father of Mrs. Joe O'Brien, and we had some nice talks together.

"Our stable did fairly well back there. Patrick Primrose took a record of 2:00 at Vernon Downs and was only out of the money once. I saw him in a photo-finish in 2:01. The three-year-old half brother to Imprudent, Hawkins Hoss, took a mark of 2:03 and I believe he is endowed with real speed and will take a fast mark this fall. Mis-Statement won last week in 2:08 1-5. He is a three-year-old trotter. Prudent Found took a mark of 2:06, developed James and has been turned out. The race meeting at Hollywood Park is a smooth running organization with a dash of Hollywood atmosphere prevailing all the way through. From the above it can be seen that Walter has lost nothing of his love for horses since he left the Garden of the Gulf and is now producing speed equal to the best in California.

And here is S. Thane Belyea with

news from New Brunswick. "Harry Mount was up in Maine a couple of weeks ago watching the races and had a great time there. Said he did not meet many of the old boys he used to know. He saw Mr. McGee finish second in 2:06 1-5 and he won the next heat but they didn't announce the time." (Mr. McGee is by Abner T. Olegg and his dam is Maywin. He was bred by W. D. Proffit, Kensington, P.E.I.) "Tom Scoville, formerly of Gagetown, N.B., now with Poplar Hill Farm, Lexington, Kentucky, was home for a week. I spent Friday afternoon with him and would like to have spent more time with him. He likes the Larkins, owners of Poplar Hill Farm, very much and is getting along very well down there. He says Joe O'Brien is top driver down there and don't you think they do not respect him. Tommy expects to go to Orlando about December 1 along with the Poplar Hill stable. They are sending Poplar Tom and Poplar Perry to the Harrisburg sale. He says Poplar Tom is a lovely little horse and very handy.

"He met Henry DeWitt at the Lexington sale and had a nice chat with him. I see by the harness horse papers that a full brother of Margy Frisco, owned by Henry DeWitt, was sold for \$2800 as a yearling at Lexington. I asked Tommy why Joe didn't start Meadow Pace at Lexington and he said that the horse developed a fever at Delaware, Ohio, and it was thought best not to start him. The Fredericton Exhibition, Ltd., has decided to go ahead and light the track for next year and if possible try and form a circuit with Woodstock, St. Stephen and St. John."

"I had to go to Presque Isle yesterday on business and on my way back I stopped in to see Cecil McGinley and I was very sorry to find that his wife had passed away on Sunday. I stopped at Monticello to see Elbridge Wellington and he was away, but I saw his colt, a full brother to Mr. McGee 2:10. He is a nice size and

good looking yearling. I also stopped at the Houlton track to see Mr. McGee and the rest of the horses. Red Brewer, the man who raced Mr. McGee all summer for Wellington, told me he wished he had a barn full like him. I did not have much time in Woodstock but they told me most of the boys were back from Quebec. E. J. Savage, Fredericton, sold MacArthur Astra last week to Marshall Gouvan of Saint John. Mr. Savage is wintering Jo-Ann Castle in his own barn this winter. . . . We regret the sad news of the passing of Mrs. McGinley of Houlton, and we extend on behalf of ourselves and other horsemen, our deepest sympathy to Mr. McGinley.

The 15th annual auction of the Standardbred Horse Sales Company will be held in the Pennsylvania State Farm show arena, Harrisburg, Pa., November 9-10-11-12 and 13. Nine hundred horses have been catalogued and the company believes it will be one of the greatest lots of record horses ever to be sold at public auction. Fast record horses include Excellent Chief 2:01 2-5, holder of the world's record for a divided heat race by two-year-old pacers and with winnings of over \$45,000 this season. Also the three-year-old Hillsota 2:00 with winnings of \$65,000 at two and three years old, and such fast record horses as Sir Joseph 1:58 4-5, Widower Cyrus 1:59 1-5, Poor Pop 2:00 5-2, Wilmington Direct 2:01 2-5, Forever Hanover 2:02, Winnie Direct 2:02 and dozens of others with records better than 2:06.

Among them will be many of horses that have been featured at such raceways as Roosevelt, Yonkers, Vernon Downs and other half-mile and mile tracks. Those on the lookout for well bred yearlings can expect to see some future world's champions among those offered by Hanover Shoe Farms and other leading breeding establishments. Last year Maritime buyers bought over twenty horses at Harrisburg but we do not look for such a large

influx this season. Dufferin track, Toronto, that has been a race centre for over fifty years, will open on November 18 and racing will be continued for 100 days through March, 1954. Races will be held daily except Sunday with classes for all horses and purses of \$300, \$400, \$600 up. Ten events daily, no entrance fee charged. The secretary is H. E. Wicks, 909 Dufferin St., Toronto, and Mr. Wicks, we may state, is a fixture He was there in 1914 when we raced at Dufferin and we trust that he will be there many more years.

Aubrey Rodney, who has been before the public as a top harness driver since 1912 when he made Baden the champion trotter of the United States and he was sold for \$30,000 to the Russian government, is still at his same old tricks. He won the summer title as leading driver at Saratoga Raceway and that made it seven out of eight years for similar honors. He is also this season's leading driver there with 57 firsts, 59 seconds and 48 thirds, his percentage being 382. Second to him is Charlie Flemming with 34 wins, 29 seconds and 23 thirds, percentage 349. Charlie Flemming is a son of the celebrated Vic Flemming, who gave Billy Direct his world's record pacing of 1:55 and marked several other horses in 2:00 or better. He was one of the greatest race drivers the world has ever known.

Townsend Ackerman who every few years brings out a real star, this season trained and raced Empire Song for W. P. Caouette of Skowhegan, Maine, and won one of the richest stakes raced over half-mile tracks this season at Bloomsburg, Penn. Empire Song was one of a field of 13 and was a handy winner in 2:03 and back in 2:10 1-5, the former a record for the stake. The purse was \$13,225. Back in 1923 Ackerman raced Ella Drulen to a three-year-old record of 2:04 and sold her to Thomas Murphy for \$25,000. He gave her

a record of 2:01 1-4. She is the third dam of Empire Song and that was one reason why Townsend Ackerman bought the colt at Harrisburg last fall. Empire Song was consigned by C. T. Black, Berryville, Pa., and was by Peter Song 2:00, and his sales price was \$950—a mighty good buy, wasn't it

It is really wonderful what trainers and drivers can do with two-year-olds now. Of course the two-year-olds are fed and developed so that they are really equal to four-year-olds raised in the old way. Take for instance, Pronto Boy, a trotting gelding that Benny Schue won the Cimarron race stake with a purse of \$11,700 a little over two weeks ago trotting in world's record time of 2:04 3-5 and 2:05. Two weeks ago he came back to win the oldest of all American trotting stakes, the Lexington, that was established in 1875 with a purse of \$11,400 and his miles were 2:05 1-5, 2:04 2-5. The two-year-old pacer Excellent Chief that is being featured at the Harrisburg sale was another instance. He won the \$18,600 stake for two-year-old pacers on the opening day at Lexington with miles in 2:03 3-5 and 2:01 2-5 and on the final day of the ten-day meeting he won the \$12,600, losing the first heat in 2:03 to Dale Frost. He won the second heat in 2:03 4-5 and then stepped his third mile in 2:01 2-5, a world's record by a three-year-old pacing colt for a third heat.

Excellent Chief is owned by E. J. Baker, a man whose greatest interest and pleasure is race horses and who is still the owner of the world's champion trotter Greyhound 1:55 1-4. The driver of Excellent Chief was Ralph Baldwin, a Canadian from Western Canada.

Joe O'Brien and Del Cameron have been great friends ever since Joe started to drive race horses in the U.S.A. and now we notice where Del is sending one of his top horses, Newport Chief, to California for Joe to race. When Joe has two horses in a race and can secure Del's services he has done so and likewise Del.

We mentioned where the book of Adios 1:57 1-2 was closed and that Iola Henley 2:07 2-5 is booked to him. Now we learn that tremendous prices are being offered Del Miller by leading stock farms for his great stallion. He is now the sire of a field of 13 and a world's record holder, Adios Boy, whose mark of 1:58 3-5 was sensational in a time effort at Lexington, and he is also the sire of two-year-old Adios Betty, that took a record of 1:58 4-5 in a time trial at Lexington, and 12 or more two-year-olds that took records below 2:10 this season.

A very fine business man and great harness horse lover passed away recently in Saint John, N.B., James Neill. Over thirty years ago Mr. Neill was acting as judge at various race meetings in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. His courteous treatment of drivers and his good judgment in the stand was always appreciated. In private life he had thousands of friends because he was a friendly man and always enjoyed having a conversation and had something kind to say about everyone. The writer knew him intimately and regrets his passing very much.

Here are some of the placings of Maritime horses at Blue Bonnets Raceway since last Saturday's Back Stretch. Fourth Race, OC Pace—Shining Hour (W. Lewis) 1, Bevo Mite (F. Jerry) 2, time, 2:12. Third Race, trot, Flaxscott (R. MacDonald) 3, time, 2:14 4-5. Owner, P. J. Cadegan, Glace Bay. Tenth Race, 5 miles pace—Bifty Sue (Girard) 1, War Lord 2, Handbook (Ratchford) 3, time, 12:12. Owner of Handbook, Richard Jabalee, North Sydney. Third Race, C Pace—Bud's Best (D. Johnson) 1, time, 2:21 1-5. Owner, Duncan MacDonald, Sydney. Sixth Race, C Trot—Cobbstone (J. MacDonald) 2, time, 2:12 2-5. Owned by D. Cadegan, Glace Bay. Eighth Race

2:08 Pace—Derby Day 1, Vanguard (D. Johnson) 2, time, 2:14 3-5. Owner of Vanguard, Duncan MacDonald, Sydney. Fifth Race, C Pace—Josedale Clansman (J. MacDonald) 2, owned by Arthur Lip-ton, Sydney. Eighth Race, B Pace—Handbook (D. Ratchford) 1, time, 2:10 4-5, owned by Richard

Jabalee, North Sydney. We deeply regret the passing of our friend, W. B. MacArthur of Kensington, in his 86th year. Mr. MacArthur, familiarly known as "Brad", was interested in horses and horse racing all his life and was one of the mainstays of the

sport in Prince County. He owned many valuable race horses, one of these, Miss Belle Rice 2:18 1-4, was purchased for a long price in the United States. She was by the Walnut Hall Farm sire, Manrico 3, 2:03 1-4 and her blood lines most (Continued on page 8.

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