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Back Stretch

(Continued from page 6)

Maritimes by Ballard and Bonavicky, Sydney Mines, N.S., and in 1939 made 14 starts and won five races. In 1940 he made 13 starts and had 6 winning brackets and at Charlottetown, August 15th, he won the third heat of the Free For All in 2:08 after Jane Azoff had won the first two heats and race in 2:08 3/4, 2:10 1/2. At Bridgewater, October 4th, he won the Free For All with 4-1-1, Aaron L. 1-3-3, Tracey Hanover, 3-2-2, Duddy Patch 2-4-4. Time, 2:10, 2:09 1/4, 2:08 1/4. In 1941 he passed to the ownership of Thomas J. Watson of Halifax, and was trained and driven that season by Roy Barnett. In his ten starts he had five winning brackets. One of his best efforts was at Charlottetown, August 14th in the Free For All Trot and Pace... Rainey G. Henley (Barnett) 1-1-2, Janet Azoff (Kelly) 4-2-1, Duddy Patch (J. MacMillan) 3-3-3, Bedford Gratton (Bowness) 6-4-4, Tracey Hanover (Harrison) 5-6-5, Signal Senator (Power) 7-7-7, All Grattan (T. Semple) 2-5-dr. Time, 2:09 1/4, 2:10 1/4, 2:09 1/4. In 1942 Rainey G. made three starts but did not win any of them. In 1943 he made his one start at New Glasgow, N.S., July 14th. In 1944 he did not start. In 1945 he had passed into the ownership of Don MacAulay, who started him five times and won at Pugwash, Shediac and Parrsboro. That finished his racing career.

Glancing over the summaries of Old Home Week, 1941, we notice that Raymond Budlong (W. McNeill) won the Three Year Old Futurity pace in straight heats, best time 2:14 1/4, Aaron L. (J. O'Brien) won the 2:12 trot and pace with 1-2-1, All Grattan (T. Semple) 5-1-2, time, 2:11, 2:06 1/4, 2:08. The middle heat won by All Grattan was the fastest of the meeting. The 2:22 trot was won by Little Fox (J. MacMillan) with 1-1-2, Ducky Kalmuck (Kelly) 2-2-1, best time 2:14 1/4 by Little Fox, owned by W. G. Stewart, New Glasgow, N.S. The 2:22 pace was won by Grattan Queen (Harrison) in straight heats, best time 2:12 1/4. She was owned by Merry Time Stables, Halifax. The Merry Time and pace was won by Millie Kalmuck (Kelly) with 5-1-1, San Ton (Conroy) 1-3-3, four other starters, time, 2:09, 2:09 1/2, 2:10. Millie Kalmuck was owned by Willard Kelly. Millie also won the Free For All Trot at the same meeting and Aaron L. the 2:14 trot and pace in straight heats, best time 2:08. In the first dash race Bedford Gratton (Bowness) 1, Brian Yorke (Morrison) 2, Time, 2:11 1/4. The winner was owned by Andrew Perry, Summerside. The average time of the 21 heats paced was 2:10 3/4, excluding the futurities. The average time of the pacing heats the previous year was 2:10 1/4. The average time of the 12 heats trotted was 2:13, the previous year the average was 2:12 1/4, all excluding the futurities.

Harry Hirsch, Sydney, N.S., has added the five year old bay trotting mare, Annie Scott 2:09 4-5, by Tryax, to his racing stable now being trained by Harley Harrison, Port Elgin, N.B. Annie took her record as a four year old at Lexington last fall. She had previously taken a pacing record of 2:24. Her winnings for the past two seasons total \$3,267, making her eligible to the 2:19 trot.

Clayton MacLeod, Westville, N.S., has traded the pacer Sim H., bay gelding by Simcoe Harvester 2:04 1/4, with M. MacKinnon, New Waterford, N.S., for the good trotting mare Gertie Reamore 2:20. Gertie is eligible to the 2:23 trot and she has trotted many seconds faster than her record.

A letter from Louis Praught, Sherbrooke race track, Quebec, has the following: "Just a line to let you know that Jack Quinn arrived safely and I like him very much. I will use him as my second trainer and have him drive a few races during the season." Quinn's many friends will be glad to know that he is so nicely placed.

Howard De Freitas, publicity writer for Saratoga Raceway, Saratoga Springs, New York, has released the following re Joe O'Brien... The battle for driving honors at Saratoga Raceway will have a new and formidable contender this summer.

He is the pint-sized Canadian Irishman, Joe O'Brien, one of the most spectacular sulky-sitters the sport has produced in recent years.

The 33-year-old O'Brien, from New Glasgow, N.S., and Alberton, P.E.I., has advised Raceway officials that he intends to drive during the first week of the 60-night summer meeting, June 19-Aug. 26, and to remain well into August. He will ship his 17-horse public stable from California at the close of the Santa Anita spring meeting June 17.

In O'Brien, Raceway fans will see one of the smallest reimen in the game. Little Joe stands about five-five and weighs around 120. He's all driver, though, as

TIRED FEET

Soothe them with

MINARD'S LINIMENT

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35¢

Sport Echoes

(Continued from page 6)

Flyers, Island basketball champions for the second year in a row. They won in a walk this year, losing the first game to Ray's Millionaires and winning all the rest, most of them with ridiculous ease. The personnel of the team has changed considerably from last year's line-up. Bob Bayne and "Moose" Carson are all that is left of last year's champs. Bayne, one of the mainstays of the team, whose generalship is always a big factor in the team's victories, has one of the most beautiful long-distance shots we've seen. "Moose" a star in baseball, as well as in basketball, is one of the most colorful athletes at the port. "Moose" takes a fling at clowning occasionally, especially in baseball, but blows his top too at times when he disagrees with an official's decision. In both roles the fans love him. Bill Eckley, a tall chap with plenty of basketball savvy, and Walt Lowe, who was a star with Sault Ste Marie for two years, joined the team this year. The other boys, Piercey, Campbell and the rest we haven't seen much of, but they appear to have a well-balanced team and it is a pity they are unable to enter the Maritime playdowns this year.

Congratulations to the Borden Nationals, new Island intermediate champions! They defeated the Summerside Crystals on Forum ice by a wide margin and showed definitely that they were the better team. All sports writers take \$300 a dash. Opportunity will be given for all classes of trotters and pacers to perform and horses that have fast records and have slowed down from their previous performances will be raced under the "conditioned plan" which is in use at the principal night racing plants in the U.S.A. With the new building and the many improvements that are being made, 1950 promises to be one of the most exciting seasons of all time for racing and entertainment. The vaudeville program this year contains special acts and we understand that a great deal of stress will be placed on having that form of entertainment the best procurable.

Hunters Corner

(Continued from Page 6)

The duck population in the West Indies shows a 12 per cent decrease compared with 1949 while in Mexico ducks wintering in that country dropped 25 per cent. Other areas in the States show from 12 to 15 per cent decrease. It is apparent that our duck surplus has been wiped out. The kill was heavy in 1949. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported that seventeen million ducks and geese were taken in the States last season and three million more were lost through crippling.

A Wildlife commentator in the States has something to say in respect to the cause of this waterfowl shortage and is quoted in part as follows: "Waterfowl gains were further threatened last season by flagrant violations of hunting laws. A senate spokesman said recently that nation-wide game laws of offenses were the worst in more than a decade and told the Senate that illicit shooting could well cancel out possible increases in duck and goose populations."

To this columnist's way of thinking over shooting and non-observance of game laws are the two main causes of the decrease in duck population. Ducks were plentiful in

As daring on the track as he is retiring off it, Joe O'Brien first came to prominence in 1947 when he won 44 dashes in his native Canada and then captured 84 more in the U. S. to wind up with a total of 128 that topped all reinmen on both sides of the border. At the end of the season, Sep Pallin picked him up as his right hand man for the Castleton Farm of Lexington, Ky. Although O'Brien shared Castleton mounts with Pallin in 1948, he was the nation's sixth largest money-winning driver with more than \$98,000 to his credit. His big triumph of the year came with Indian Land in the \$50,000 Golden West Pace. In the fall of '48, Joe resigned from Castleton and opened a public stable, which he campaigned mainly at Roosevelt Raceway last year before finishing out the season at Hollywood Park. Again he was among the top drivers, landing seventh in the money column with \$112,679 and twelfth in the dash-winning list with 76.

Whether or not restrictive legislation will be imposed in respect to duck hunting for the coming season of 1950 will depend upon the coming hatch. A bumper northern hatch saved the day for P. E. I. hunters last fall. Although black ducks were present last April and May in this province in normal numbers the hatch was a flop. Game observers are of the opinion that no one cause was responsible. Skunks and crows are known to have taken a heavy toll of eggs and in certain easter duck breeding grounds raccoons are suspected of having destroyed numbers of duck nests. Coons are very plentiful in sections of southern Queens and Kings counties and, like the skunk and crow, are very fond of eggs.

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Last fall Dominion Wildlife Officials took a game bag check in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and made the rather startling discovery that 85 per cent of the ducks found in hunter's bags were young birds of the year. This shows only too plainly how quick the duck population can drop if the hatch is below normal. To be frank this columnist is not too optimistic about the coming duck season. Our breeding stock is below last season's supply. We had a better than average hatch last summer over the general duck breeding areas, an average that Nature seldom duplicates. Even if the 1950 hatch is on a par with 1949 we will still be approx. 15 per cent in the red if the 1950 hatch is poor duck hunters may be prepared for anything.

Methinks an extensive campaign against the skunk and crow is in order for April and May if we hope to improve our duck prospects. Every duck nest destroyed by a skunk or crow means less ducks in the fall and every nest saved means that many more ducks. Skunks are plentiful this spring and some districts are almost overrun with the pests. Residents of Souris tell me its hardly safe to walk the streets after dark. Crows too do not seem to be getting any scarcer and its up to duck hunters and sportsmen in general to get busy and think of some scheme to cut down on their numbers.

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