

BACK STRETCH

horse on the Island now named Baron. If the right man gets his horse he is a good trotter. I am wintering six head. They are Reta Federal, Mae Federal, Ed. Carl Scott, Winnifred G. and Franklin D. Alden, a newcomer that belongs to Ivan Taylor.

I would like to mention that I had a wonderful time last winter in Aiken. It is a great experience to be able to train horses with such good men as Frank Ervin, Harry Whitney, Tom Murphy, who is directing the training for the Allwood Stables with Ned Bower doing the training. I would like to say that the trotter Kimberly Kid 1:59-25 (recently sold for \$150,000) isn't too much to look at. Just a big rough-looking horse but man, what a trotter! An eighth of a second at the end of a slow write is just a road goat for him. I had been single I would have stayed there because it's the only place to be. You know everybody.

The Americans are wonderful people and very very friendly. They would like to have had the same opportunity you had of coming to Tom Murphy, probably the world's greatest reinsman, at least the most successful one and biggest money winner when he was active on the turf. Kimberly Kid was picked from a Walnut Hall consignment for his patron and he really made the grade. My trip to the south gave you experience that is invaluable in the training you have adopted.

And here's a letter from Rannie MacDonald, who is at St. Elzear, Quebec. Rannie had a real good season, his stable winning around \$22,000. In the early part of the year he raced at Dufferin, then moved on to Blue Bonnets and Richelieu. He had 12 horses in training, most of the season and had eight racing. Many of the heats were in 2:10 or better and one night eight of the ten heats were raced better than 2:10 with me in 2:07. The early part of the season two of his horses, June Bee and Roll On were being treated for injuries. Both got sound and showed up splendidly the latter part of the season. To show good the quality of the horses at the above tracks, one of the stables that competed on the Grand Circuit in the U. S. as well as on the local tracks, had earnings of upwards of \$80,000.

WORK UNDER CLAY
Rannie of course regrets the losing of Dufferin track and he said that horses across the line rarely race more than 25 to 35 heats for a season and that may be better for them than continuous racing. At present he has 12 horses wintering at Laval Park track, which is a good one with five inches of cork under the clay to give it good springy footing. He states that Bay State Pat left Florida from there this week where he will train and get ready for 1956 and he thinks that with a little more luck Pat could have been the ace of the year. Too many fast sales and a lot of shipping so close to one another affected his condition. "I saw him the day he paced Blue Bonnets in 2:03 3-5 and I don't think there were too many horses across the line that could have beat him that day over that track. I never saw a horse pace so fast and it was so easy you would

Sets Sights On New Record in Water Racing

SOUTHAMPTON, England (AP)—Water speed king Donald Campbell returned home Wednesday from the United States and talked about a target of 250 miles an hour for next year.

Campbell roared to a world record of 216.22 m. p. h. in his jet-engine Bluebird on Lake Mead, Nev., Nov. 16.

"We have a lot of work to do yet, technically and on analysis and valuation," Campbell told reporters. "But we reasonably hope to shoot at 250 m. p. h. in the coming year. From 216 to 250 m. p. h. is quite a big jump and we are still in a very dangerous phase. Bluebird, during the record run, was trying to come off the water because of air-lifts."

Campbell described traveling over the water at 216 m. p. h. as like "going at 200 m. p. h. in a car with no springs and solid tires over a dirt road covered with ice."

British Athlete To Invade U. S.

NEW YORK (AP)—Four-minute miler Brian Hewson, Britain's "athlete of the year" for 1955, will invade the United States for two indoor track meets this winter.

Dan Ferris, Amateur Athletic Union secretary, said Thursday he had received word from his British counterpart, Jack Crump, that Hewson will run in the New York A. C. meet Feb. 11 and the national AAU championships Feb. 18. Both meets are in Madison Square Garden.

Hewson is one of three runners who ran the mile in under four minutes in one race in London last May. Hungary's Laszlo Tabori won in 3:58 with Hewson and Chris Chataway right behind at 3:59.8.

Later last summer Hewson equalled the listed world half-mile record of 1:48.6 and ran the third-fastest 1,000 metres on record. He recently was named athlete of the year in a British poll.

NO TUBES ALLOWED

One of the changes in the rules made at Columbus, Ohio, prohibits racing horses with tubes in their throats and prohibits more than two "also eligible" conditions for early closing stake races. New rules for classifying have also been made which take more into the account the money winnings of a horse. The annual meeting of the U. S. T. A. will be held in March at Orlando, Florida, where it was held last year. It is expected there will be a full attendance of directors at that meeting. The annual meeting of District 11 (Canada) will be held at Moncton, N. B. at 2:30 p.m. on January 23, 1956, at the Hotel Brunswick. Prior to the meeting three cases will be heard by the board in review of District 11 in an upper parlor of the Hotel, proceedings commencing at 9:00 a.m.

New Distance For Queen's Plate

TORONTO (CP)—The 1957 running of the Queen's Plate will be over a 1 1/4-mile distance, after 33 consecutive years as a nine-furlong race, it was announced Wednesday.

The Ontario Jockey Club said the new distance also will mean a change in the scale weight to 126 pounds with allowances for fillies. Present scale is 119 pounds with five pounds off for fillies.

The plate moves to the new Woodbine track at nearby Malton in 1956 for the first time but it will be run over nine furlongs, as it has been since 1924, for the last time.

QUEBEC PLANS MASSES
QUEBEC (CP)—Approximately 200 midnight masses will be celebrated this Christmas in Quebec City and district. More than 200,000 persons are expected to attend.

Attendance And Betting Highs Recorded In 1955

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—More people went to harness races this year and bet more money than ever before, the U. S. Trotting Association said Thursday.

The new all-time highs continued the post-war upward trend in both attendance and betting at harness races. Attendance was up 1.1 per cent, betting 7.2 per cent and revenue to the 12 states which permit pari-mutuel wagering was up 8.2 per cent.

Association officials said the increases were registered despite

B.E. Heavy Title Open? Report Puzzles Officials

LONDON (IP)—British boxing officials said Thursday they are "mystified" by a Toronto report that the British Empire heavyweight boxing title is vacant.

"This is quite incorrect," said Teddy Waltham, general secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control and secretary of the British Commonwealth and Empire boxing championships committee.

"The present titleholder is Don Cockell of London and as far as we know he has no intention of retiring."

Waltham said neither the Empire committee nor the British board would recognize a Jan. 9 Toronto fight between James J. Parker of Barrie, Ont., and South African Johnny Arthur as a title match.

Merv McKenzie, Ontario athletic commissioner, was quoted Wednesday as saying the bout had been sanctioned as a title match by the Canadian Boxing Federation.

Cockell successfully defended his title against Arthur in South Africa in January, 1954.

Looking For A Quarterback

KINGSTON, Ont. (CP)—Queen's University will need a new quarterback for the senior intercollegiate football squad for next year.

Gus Braccia, star quarterback on this year's senior intercollegiate championship team, said in a telephone interview from his home in Philadelphia that he has passed his United States Army medical and "will be getting my notice to report" within a week or two.

The former Temole University football ace landed on Queen's campus four days before the football season started and in the subsequent 1 1/2 months carried the Gaels to their first championship in 18 years.

His presence in the Gael lineup was questioned several times but never officially.

TRADE ACTIVE

VICTORIA (CP)—British Columbia's population is increasing at the rate of 35,000 yearly and will perhaps reach 2,000,000 by 1975, said T. L. Sturgess, deputy trade minister, in an address here. He predicted this would be a record year for retail sales.

DAWSON CREEK, B. C. (CP)—Building activity in this northern British Columbia village resulted in permits totalling \$2,000,000 for the first nine months of the year, for construction inside the village limits. On the outskirts, a \$4,000,000 radar project and a refinery are being built.

Hunters' Corner

snow and twin dots leading hither and you showed that an Ermine (Weasel) had investigated a tangled thicket. The heater in the car felt cosy. It's the first time in years that I dug out the fur cap in November. I took the hint from the wildgeese and didn't make a mistake.

Earlier in the week I took a ramble over my old home stamping ground. Snow lay 10 inches deep on the swamp trails but in hollows and glades it was drifted four and five feet deep. Foxes were following the rabbit runways and I guess the bunies have to be on the alert to stay alive. When the snow is deep and the trees crack with the frost in the winter nights there is nothing Brer Fox likes better than a hot rabbit dinner. Field mice are a staple diet throughout the year but if a fox wants a real banquet he'll take rabbit in preference to anything else except... and the exception is a muskrat.

NO LIFE

I saw no feathered life other than a pair of ebony ravens that rose with harsh croakings from a snow bank that fringed the by-pass of a dam. Examination shows the snowy surface covered with their foot prints and imprinted here and there with wing tip feathers. Dark red stains could have been made by a trout they had been quarrelling over. Whatever it was there was no definite trace left except the stains on the snow. I observed where they had walked in the shallow water and stood on snow covered

Lions Financial Status Will Be Made Known

VANCOUVER (CP)—The financial status of the British Columbia Lions, newest and probably richest member of the Western Interprovincial Football Union will be made known Jan. 3 or 4, an official said Thursday.

Phil Webb, Lions' business manager, said a statement for 1955 operations will be issued to the membership about a week before the club's annual meeting Jan. 11.

The Lions last season shattered all Canadian regular-season attendance marks.

ed tops of stones protruding from the by-pass bed. My bet is they snaffled a trout headed up the by-pass to the dam above. Ravens are tough characters and have it over the common crow like a tent when it comes to wildlife depre-dations.

This is really glorious weather once one gets used to it and has enough winter fuel laid by and a well stocked larder handy. Those of us who are that fortunate should give thanks for there are many who will be both hungry and cold on Christmas day. Christmas is a time for giving and making someone else happy. The words of an old rhyme comes to mind: "Christmas is coming and the geese are getting fat please put a penny in the old man's hat. If you haven't got a penny a ha'penny will do and if you haven't got a ha'penny God Bless you."

Merry Christmas to All.

Season's Greetings

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Season's Greetings

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best wishes for the Holidays

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