

Back Stretch

Continued from page 6

only automatic timing can be completely accurate. Mr. Dennis declared that horses and dogs are extremely constant in their running times under usual conditions.

We showed this to our friend Rupert Godfrey, proprietor of the Godfrey Photo Chart System, and he said he was familiar with Mr. Dennis and greatly interested in his work. The company with which Mr. Godfrey is associated also has similar photo-chart systems in operation at large tracks such as Roosevelt Raceway, etc. The expense would make it prohibitive for the Maritimes.

The annual meeting of District 11, United States Trotting Association, was held in the Brunswick Hotel, Moncton, on Monday last at 2:30 p.m. There was a good attendance of members and it would have been much larger but for the condition of roads and air travel. Lt.-Col. D. A. MacKinnon, D.S.O. was chairman and members of the board present with him were F. C. McCurdy, Truro, N. B., and J. Henry Dewitt, Woodstock, N. B. The secretary was Charles E. Clarke, who has held that position for several years and his help in organizing the meeting and assisting in various ways is much appreciated.

The chairman introduced Mr. John DuCharme, who is no stranger to most of the members having been here last season, and he received a warm welcome. Mr. DuCharme said he was very glad indeed to be back in the Maritimes again and to see so many horsemen present that he remembered. He spoke about some new rules that had been passed and will be in operation this season and said that this was the fifth district meeting he had attended. He had picked up some good stories at these meetings and he said he would like to try out a couple of them. They went over big. The meeting was then opened for discussion and the principal subject was the new rule which bars runner of horses fifteen years old or over except in matinee events.

There are quite a number of horses that will be affected by this ruling and the owners and friends are very anxious that it should not come into force for another year. Two petitions were presented and a lot of discussion took place and finally George B. Gaudin said that a vote be taken. This was seconded and passed, and ballots were distributed. The result was very close, 25 against and 22 for. After that several members spoke on matters pertaining to harness racing. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the secretary, Mr. Clarke, which was unanimously passed and well deserved.

Members present were: Lt.-Col. D. A. MacKinnon, F. C. McCurdy, J. Henry Dewitt, John DuCharme, Wendy Kelver, Samuel Kennedy, Kenneth McDougall, Miledge Wood, Ivan Taylor, Harry Wedd, Edward Savage, William Chase, Percie Downey, Harry Downey, Milton Downey, Frank Barr, George Irving, Ralph Noddin, Arthur MacArthur, Prowse MacArthur, Ambrose Leger, Arthur Gallant, George Robinson, J. H. Woods, Blair Bernard, William Brown, John Jamieson, Edward Milton, B. J. Milton, Clement O'Hanley, Marshall Govan, Cecil Alexander, Gerald Alexander, William Burt, P. P. Harty, George O'Blenis, Fred Ferguson, Leonard Barrieau, Robert Steeves, George B. Gay, William Gay, Fred Wilbur, Myron MacArthur, Allen Quartermain, Bedford Lyndon, Dr. F. C. Dougan, Thomas Eiter, Laurie O'Brien, Henry Cormier, Omar Cormier, Spurgeon Williamson, Samuel Bourne, William Babineau, Robert Cameron, William Buck, Eddie Dalton, David Pellerin, Harold Ramsey, Frank Ryder, Mr. Taylor, Orin Jardine, Harvey Cormier, B. J. Ryan, H. McIntosh, Dr. J. T. Atkins.

The International Ice Races which will be staged at Dartmouth Lakes on February 13th and 14th under the sponsorship of the Eastern Driving Club, with enterprising Fred Lahey as manager, are attracting a lot of attention and it is hoped to have entries from Fort Fairfield, Maine, Charlottetown, Hunter River, Summerside, Truro, Saint John, Pugwash, Cape Breton, Halifax, Dartmouth, and other points. Features of the meet will be an International Trot scheduled for Saturday, February 13th and an International Pace slated for the following day. It is expected that United States competition will be supplied by Phil Reed, well known horseman of Fort Fairfield, who is expected to send down his pacer Delaware Chief and his trotter Betty Butler for the adventure. These meets are strictly an amateur affair and were first started in 1941. One of them staged a few years ago attracted a crowd of more than 10,000 and if the weather is favorable it is expected to have as many this year. The scene of the meet will be Lake Banook, the first of a chain of the beautiful Dartmouth Lakes. Situated in the center of Dartmouth the lake affords a natural amphitheatre for such an attraction and is easily accessible to the public.

The writer was asked to contact the United States Trotting Association as to whether horse and drivers taking part in the above races would be subject to the rules of the United States Trotting Association re eligibility certificates, drivers' licenses, winnings, etc. The answer was no—that races such as are being conducted by the Eastern Driving Club on the ice at Dartmouth do not bring them under the rules which require eligibility certificates and drivers' licenses, as all horsemen who wish to can take part without any fear of interference from the United States Trotting Association.

We regret that George R. MacDonald, who has been a great friend of this column through the years, has had to take sick leave from his important position with Sears-Rosebuck & Co. Ltd., Boston, Mass., on account of an attack of arthritis. George was the picture of health but arthritis doesn't spare anyone. At present he is with his mother and sister, Mrs. "Happy" Hobbs, on Euston Street, where we hope he will soon improve and be as well as ever in a short time.

We received from secretary-treasurer W. G. Gillespie a circular of the 22nd annual Prince Edward Island Harness Racing Club's Colt Stakes, open to colts foaled or bred in the Maritimes to be raced this year. There will be five classes, a Two Year Old Trot, Two Year Old Pace, First Old Pace, Four Year Old Trot, first year old \$5 to be made March 1st. Circulars have been sent out to interested horsemen all over the Maritimes and no doubt there will be a big response. Members of the United States Trotting Association if they have not already done so, should look at page 45 of the February issue of the Beas, and note that the complete financial statement of the Prince Edward Island Harness Racing Club's stakes for 1953 appear there with names of horses, the way they finish and the amount they won.

Friends in every walk of life were greatly shocked to learn of the sudden death of Percie Downey, who died in his sleep at his home on Escher Street last Tuesday night. Mr. Downey had hundreds of friends among the horsemen. For years he took on the responsibility of transporting in-coming horses and their equipment to the Charlottetown race track and during those years he met every train, gave the best of service and there never was a complaint. The writer was at that time president of that Association and the confidence we had in Mr. Downey relieved us of a great many worries, one of the principal of which was to see that the horsemen who came by train—and that was the usual mode of travel then—were quickly looked after and made as comfortable as possible. He was known as a reliable man and the same good trait was an asset when he went into business on Lower Queen Street where he had great success, later retiring to take things easier. He had a happy home life with his loving wife and a very fine family and he took the greatest interest in both his own children and his grandchildren. Mr. Downey loved horses and knew how to take care of them and was always one of the most interested spectators at the races. One of the horses he especially liked and owned was Peter Budlong 209 4/5 and after he sold him he followed his career with the greatest interest. To his wife and family we on behalf of ourselves and horsemen friends throughout the Maritimes tender our deepest sympathy in their very great loss.

Hunters' Corner

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short spruce bushes a few feet from water's edge. I had to walk, or run, about 200 yards to reach the eastern embankment to cross over and hurry down the opposite side with young Jack right at my heels. I had marked the spot where the duck had fallen and thought all I had to do was stoop down and pick it up. There was no duck. I was positive in my young mind that the duck had been killed stone dead. I had yet to learn that a wing broken bird often falls in a limp ball of feathers and the minute it hits the ground takes off running. Jack sniffed the spot where it fell and then quickly ambled off up into the bushes. I kept searching in circles and was in a state of panic and frustration when Jack returned minutes later. I figured the dog was too young to be of much help but nevertheless had to blame someone. I spoke sharply: "Why can't you find the duck, Jack? You're no good!"

A hurt look crept into the brown eyes and the jaunty tail drooped to half-mast. Then he turned and retraced his steps up the hill into the bushes. I followed him more for something to do than anything else. 50 yards up he stopped in a clump of short spruce, stuck his nose to the ground and gave his tail a few wags. My duck was there. A big fat bird, heavily plumaged and really black—a different looking duck than those I had shot in August and September. Jack had pinched the bird across the back and rendered it incapable of movement. There were no shot marks on the body. A stray pellet had broken a wing. That was a red letter morning for me.

I could never teach him to retrieve off land. He'd find a duck in a marsh or in bushes, anchor it and leave. He'd take me back to the spot if I caught him soon after he had found it. It was the same on water. He wouldn't place a duck in my hand but dropped it on the first dry land he came to. If it happened to be a dry hummock or little island in the water between him and the shore he stacked them up there. You could threaten, scold or do what you liked... that was THAT.

There were times when I could have scouted him. I remembered an August afternoon when the sun's rays beat down and the surface of the lake was like a mirror. Not a breath of air stirred. I hunkered down in a favourite duck blind known as the "Southwest Corner." Blind. The harvest beetles chirred and the Dragon flies made little rattly noises along the fringe of bracken that overhung the waters edge. A drowsiness overcame me and I curled up in the blind and went to sleep.

At about 4 o'clock the rattle of the Murray Harbour train puffing up the grade and blowing for Village Green Station woke me. I sat up in the blind and rubbed my eyes. I was still half asleep when I saw a quail through the peep hole in the blind. I was wide-awake in a split second... the water in front was black with ducks. Scattered birds tipping up within feet of where I sat. The big hammers were drawn back and the August solitude was shattered by twin black powder blasts. I killed four on the water and three when the flock rose. Only one had to be shot over and there were seven ducks dotting the water out in front.

My enjoyment was rather short-lived. Jack sprang into action and dived the seven on a dry mud bank 15 feet from the blind. I kept sending him back but he couldn't get it into his head what I was trying to put over. He'd go obediently enough any pick up duck lying on the edge of the pile and place it on top. He made a real tidy job. I guess he thought I was bawling him out for being "slap happy" in his work. I could not wade out as the lake is a bottomless pit. I spent an hour, with two rumpkins tied together with my braces, fishing them ashore. Jack would examine every duck jugged ashore and then look at me as much as to say: "You're doing fine partner." I felt like booting him out into the lake but I didn't.

Preacher Roe Signs Contract

BROOKLYN, (CP)—Preacher Roe, who had an 11-3 pitching record for Brooklyn in 1953, has signed a contract for his seventh season, the Dodgers announced Wednesday. Roe, who will be 36 this month, won 10 games in a row last year, longest streak in the National League. His 786 percentage record was the best for any hurler working more than 100 innings. The left-hander will get an estimated \$26,000, same as for 1953.

SWIMMING INSTRUCTOR EARLSWOOD, England, (CP)—Tom Gibbons, 72, claims his two pet cats are efficient swimmers and frequently catch fish in lakes in this Warwickshire district. One cat, he says, caught all 25 of her kittens to swim.

Miners' Forward

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SYDNEY, (CP)—Glouce Bay Miners forward Johnny Lumley has been suspended until Maritime Major Hockey League officials review the match penalty he drew Tuesday night for whacking Sydney Millionaires defenceman Ted O'Connor on the head with his stick. The suspension is automatic because of a Canadian Amateur Hockey Association ruling which says a player who receives a match penalty must be benched until his case is studied.

Six stitches were needed to close a gash on O'Connor's head after he and Lumley mixed it. M.M.H.L. president C. Roy McDonnell said he is awaiting the official referee's report before taking further action. O'Connor was still a patient in Sydney's St. Rita's Hospital and indications were that he would remain there for some time. Also a patient was Millionaires forward Elliott (Specs) Chorley who suffered lacerations of the lips, mouth and gums along with several broken teeth in the Tuesday game. Sydney club officials charge that a Glouce Bay player clubbed Chorley with the butt end of his stick.

Robin Roberts To Pitch Less This Season

PHILADELPHIA, (AP)—Robin Roberts, strong right-hander of Philadelphia Phillies, isn't going to pitch every third day in 1954. Manager Steve O'Neill, in town for a conference with owner Bob Carpenter, disclosed he has decided on a definite pitching rotation, barring injuries and emergencies. "Roberts pitches better with three full days of rest," O'Neill said. Last year, Roberts pitched a National League-leading 347 innings. Some critics said the young ace was overworked and lost his effectiveness after mid-season. Roberts denied this. He claimed he'd rather work every third day and that his effectiveness didn't suffer.

Roberts won 23 and lost 16 in 1953. He July 8, he had a 13-6 mark, which means he won 10 and lost 10 from there to the end of the season, a poor performance for the pitcher generally considered the best in the business. He lost seven of his last nine games. O'Neill said that he thought Curt Simmons, freeballing southpaw; Bob Miller, lean right-hander, and Steve Ridzik, a nine-game winner last year, can use the full three-day rest between assignments. The manager said he hasn't decided on any schedule for 37-year-old Murray Dickson, obtained from Pittsburgh Pirates during the off-season.

Marciano Will Not Defend Title Before June

NEW YORK, (AP)—The International Boxing Club said Wednesday Rocky Marciano will not defend his heavyweight title before June. "There will be no title fight in March," Murray Goodman, IBC publicist, announced. "After discussions with Al Weill, Marciano's manager, it's been decided that Marciano won't fight again until the summer and his opponent is indefinite." There had been talk that Marciano might meet Dan Bucceroni in March. Ezzard Charles also has been mentioned as a likely opponent.

Lyndhursts Win Exhibition Game

DAVOS, Switzerland, (Reuters)—Toronto Lyndhursts' Canada's entry in the forthcoming world hockey championships at Stockholm, Wednesday defeated Davos 13-4. A crowd of about 1,800 braved the cold to watch the exhibition game, played on exceptionally fast ice. The Canadians completely dominated the game and the play was fast and brilliant. Moe Galand, 23-year-old right winger, scored three goals for the Lyndhursts; Bob Kennedy, Earl Clements and John Petro each scored two; Norm Gray, Russ Robertson, Red Sprague and Vic Sluce each got one goal.

York And Vicinity

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Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Sproule had as their guest over the week-end, their son, Bernard of the R.C.A.P. Mr. Fenton Crockett, Pleasant Grove, spent Sunday in the city. Miss Elaine Cooke, student of P.W.C., spent the week-end at her home in York.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cooke, City, was the guest of his father, Mr. Pope Cooke, York, recently. Miss Joan Vessey, student of the P.W.C., was home over the week-end. Mr. and Mrs. Hammond Brown, City, were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Swan, York.

Mr. and Mrs. William Vessey, Dunstaffnage, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Brown on Jan. 27. Mr. and Mrs. Ira Lewis, York, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Edison McDonald, Covehead, on Feb. 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd MacMillan and family, Covehead, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Crockett, York, on Feb. 1. Mr. and Mrs. Will Watts, York, were the guests of their daughter, Mrs. Edison McDonald, Covehead, on Feb. 1.

Misses Gladys and Elizabeth McDonald, students of P.W.C., were week-end guests at their home in York on Jan. 31. Mr. Mayron Ling, Donald Crockett, and Lowell Watts, York, attended the hockey game at North River rink on Feb. 2.

Mrs. Elmer Brown was hostess to the York W. I. on Feb. 2 with a big attendance and an auction sale was held. Mrs. Frank Watts was the auctioneer for the evening. Mr. Lowell Watts, York, was the guest of his sister at Covehead, on Feb. 1. Mrs. Earle Ling has returned back to her school in Pinette. She was a patient in the P.E. Island.

Canadian Legion Membership Up

OTTAWA, (CP)—The Canadian Legion said Thursday it has increased its membership by 15,000 to 212,000 during the last year. This is about 6,000 less than in the peak membership year of 1946, T. D. Anderson, Legion general secretary, announced. The Legion's 1954 convention will be held at Toronto, with the opening ceremonies Sunday, Aug. 1, he said.

Dewey Expects Ike Will Run Again

ALBANY, N. Y. (AP)—Governor Thomas E. Dewey said Thursday he expects President Eisenhower to run for a second term—and win. Dewey, credited with playing a major role in the drive to win the 1952 Republican nomination for Eisenhower, told a press conference, "I certainly expect and hope" the president will run again in 1956. Asked about the president's chances of re-election, Dewey replied: "If he ran again, I'm sure he'd win." The musk ox of the far north is not an ox, but a member of the sheep family.

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Rapid Growth Of Dartmouth

DARTMOUTH, N. S. (CP) Dartmouth, the town that has been dubbed the bedroom of Halifax, had more construction work in 1953 than at any time in its 200-year history. Private construction during the year totalled \$6,975,600, as much as the whole town assessment 23 years ago. Building inspector Welford Symonds said this figure does not include a \$1,800,000 defence project and the town's share of the Halifax-Dartmouth bridge. Close to 900 new living units were included in the construction. Fifty-five apartment buildings were built at a cost of \$5,125,000. Dartmouth, just across the harbor from Halifax, has about 29,000 population but is growing rapidly and Halifax city manager August Debard once said the day will come when the town will be the bedroom of Halifax.

U. S. Sends New Atomic Battery To Europe

WASHINGTON, (AP)—The U. S. Army said Thursday another battery of atomic cannons is going to Europe to augment the six big guns sent there last fall. A battery is six guns. When the additional guns and their crews will be started for Europe was not disclosed. The 280 - mm guns will give atomic fire support to the NATO forces standing in defence of Western Europe. The 284th Field Artillery Battalion, equipped with the 280-mm guns, has been told to be ready for movement to Europe, an army spokesman said. The 280mm gun has a range of about 20 miles when using the full size projectile. However, with a smaller calibre which can be used by an adapting device the range is increased to about 30 miles. The atomic cannon fired its first nuclear shell in a test at the Las Vegas, Nev., experimental grounds last spring.

Halifax Prisoners Strongly Protest Food Served

HALIFAX, (CP)—City prison was the scene of a near-uprising last week, governor John W. Grant told the health and welfare committee of city council Wednesday in explaining his request for an increased food budget in 1954. Mr. Grant said 12 inmates threatened an uprising after making strong complaints about the food. He requested a food budget of \$8,909 for 1954, up \$700 from 1953. The committee voted \$8,400. "I went over the menus when I first came here," city manager August Debard said, "and they seemed quite good." "What did you have for meals today, governor?" Mayor Richard Donahoe asked. "For breakfast they had porridge, molasses, bread, milk and tea," he answered.

Probe Complaint Of British M. P.

LONDON, (CP)—The foreign office Friday announced an investigation into the complaint of a British Labor member of Parliament that during a Canadian-American tour he was twice fingerprinted by United States authorities. Victor Yates, member for Ladywood, told reporters he was fingerprinted before leaving for the United States last September on a nine-week tour and again at the American embassy in Vancouver after a one-day visit to British Columbia. "It does seem extraordinary to me that members of the British Parliament should be subjected to such indignities by a friendly power," said Yates. "I do not believe MPs have to submit to having their fingerprints taken when they wish to go to Moscow even." The American embassy in London commented that fingerprinting is "routine practice."

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