

Back Stretch

der, and one 2-year-old, Birchwood, started, won the first and second heats in 2:19 1/2 and 2:18 1/2 and was not among the drawn or distanced at the end of the carnage, getting his little old third money of \$150, of which \$50 was get after entrance fee was taken off. There were 11 starters in that race and only two of them were distanced. Three others were drawn after going five heats and two heat winners that stayed to the end still finished back of the money. Here is the summary: Dandy O, 9-6-7-8-3-7-6-4-1-1-1; Maud M., 3-7-4-1-1-4-7-3-6-2-6; Birchwood, 1-1-8-10-7-7-3-4-6-5-3-4; Rahlella, 7-8-2-2-4-1-3-5-3-4-5; Time: 2:19 1/2; 2:17 3/4; 2:19 1/2; 2:18 1/2; 2:20; 2:22; 2:25 1/4; 2:25 1/4; 2:28 1/2; 2:30 1/4; 2:29 1/2; 2:31; 2:29 1/2. The above were all 3-year-olds with the exception of the one 2-year-old. Did it hurt him? Not that anybody ever heard of because he raced to a 2.21 mark later and sired a lot of speed.

A horse that had a great reputation as a stayer was called "Stevie". On July 3, 1890, he won a 7-heat race at Tonawanda, N. Y. July 31 he won two heats of a 7-heat race at Cleveland. August 19, at Poughkeepsie he won a 10-heat race and August 26 at Hartford he romped home first in a 6-heat affair. At Poughkeepsie the celebrated Ed F. Geers was up behind Stevie. Here is the summary: Stevie, 10-6-5-9-8-2-2-1-1-1; Miss Alice, 9-10-3-1-5-4-1-2-3-3; Goldenrod, 6-1-1-3-4-5-4-4-2; Globe, 1-1-1-1-2-4-6-9-8-7-6; Time: 2:20; 2:21 1/4; 2:19 1/2; 2:20; 2:22; 2:22; 2:23; 2:19 1/2; 2:20; 2:23 1/2.

A horseman friend from Parrsboro has sent us particulars of a race meeting at the Parrsboro Driving Park in the fall of 1896. The judges were W. Gibson, D. B. Young and A. B. Etter. The winners were W. E. Calhoun, J. W. Butler of Amherst, and A. B. Etter was the starter. In the 1890's Mr. Etter was one of the most prominent horsemen in the Maritimes and Amherst was a great racing center. The first event in the afternoon's program was the 2.50 class and it was won in straight heats by Billy O'Brien, owned by James Brown of Amherst and driven by J. D. Gillespie. Paul Gillespie's Maud G. driven by J. L. Cox, was second in the first heat and Little Billy, owned by Bliss Thompson and driven by J. B. Glendinning, the two other heats. Time, 2:49 1/2, 2:54, 2:53. In the Free For All Mahoney's Kate Derrick, driven by York won the first and second heats and the remaining three heats were won by Day's Bessie Rampart with Cox handling the ribbons. Time, 2:44, 2:43, 2:46 1/2, 2:45, 2:46. The concluding event was the Green Race and the horses starting were Brown's Billy O'Brien, Cottontail, owned and driven by J. H. Gillespie, J.E.C. owned by J. E. Crow, Springhill and driven by Glendinning, and Emma S., owned by W. C. Holder of River Hebert. Billy O'Brien won the first heat but fell as he was turning around near the judges stand, so was withdrawn. J.E.C. came second, Cottontail third and Emma

S. fourth. In the next heat J.E.C. was first, Emma S., driven by E. W. Hartnet, third. The third and fourth heats were captured by J. E. C. with Emma second. Time, 2:57, 3:06, 2:14, 2:05. This story of an old time race will no doubt be of interest to a number of the persons who took part and are still living, also relatives and friends. Parrsboro remained a good racing center for many years. They had an excellent track nicely situated, and many took a lively interest in the sport.

Friday night, May 13, at Roosevelt Raceway the top event of the night was the \$6,000 handicap trot with seven starters. The favorite, Katie Key, finished only fourth and Dean Gallon, that had been given the biggest handicap on account of his having the slowest record, finished last. Torch Key, 2:02 1/2, winner of \$27,000 last season and driven by W. Dennis, was 1; Royal Pastel 2:02 1/2, winner of \$65,700 last year and driven by D. Williams 2; Daisy Astra, 2:01 1/2; winner of \$16,227, driven by Jimmie Jordan, was 3; Katie Key 1:59 1/2, winner of \$84,865 and driven by the Canadian Clint Hodgins, was 4; Lanier Hanover 2:04 1/2 was 5; Royal Pastel 2:02 1/2, and Dean Gallon 2:07 1/2, 7. Dean Gallon's course was racing out of his class and with the limited experience he had had it would be too much to expect that he could win or even place well in such company. Dean had won three races against the best trotters at Roosevelt and hence had to be moved out of his class.

Among the winners that night was Betty French in the 8th race, purse \$2,500. She was driven by Earle Avery. Time 2:05 1/4. A picture in the New York Times shows the finish of the Dean Gallon race, with six horses showing almost in line and the following: An upset in the making. Torch Key nearing the finish line in the featured handicap trot at Roosevelt Raceway Friday night with other horses in line. The \$28,100-for-\$2 shot defeated the others in the \$6,000 contest. Another picture is of two horses nuzzling each other and below the picture is: Small horse, big threat: Quinton Scott, a 2-year-old trotter who stands about 4 feet 8 inches, with Sister Song, who is 5 feet 8 inches high. Both are from the Ben Turlington stable, now at Roosevelt Raceway. Quinton Scott, known as the midjet racer at the Westbury track, is said to be one of the smallest harness horses ever to reach the races.

In the opening races at Roosevelt Raceway, Md., Chuck Volo, bred and still owned by one of the sport's leading fan-sponsor combinations, S. A. and Wendell Wathen of Fort Fairchild, Me., stole the show. The son of Volomite 2:03 1/4, that will later be retired to the stallion ranks, captured the first racing of the free for all series in the Maryland Circuit turning in a sensational 2:02 mile over the half-mile oval. The oldest horseman cannot recall any New England standardbred ever racing as fast as this so early in the season. Certainly never did one perform so sensationally in an opening engagement of a new campaign. It stamps this stallion for what he has shown himself to be ever since his 2-year-old form as one

of the four or five greatest pacers ever to come out of the eastern states. He took on a formidable field which included The Engineer 2:03 1/2, one of the best of the early racing at Roosevelt this season, Wilmington Star 1:58 1/2 and Walter McKlyo 1:58 1/2. Chuck Volo is being pointed for one of the top pacing stakes of the year, the renewal of the \$26,000 American pacing derby at Vernon Downs, N. Y. on July 15.

In the first of these events held last summer the Wathen star took on probably the greatest field of aged pacers ever to face a starter and after five rugged heats came out the winner with a new record of 2:00 flat. This year's derby has attracted an entry list of nineteen and is rated as the top aged event of the season.

Jimmie Larente, young Canadian reinsman and one who is a great favorite with the fans at Foxboro, rode home to victory Monday night at Roosevelt with General Meredith in 2:06 1/2. Jimmie moves to Foxboro when it opens June 29th.

The writer remembers very vividly buying a trotter at the Old Glory sale, Madison Square Garden in November, 1913. The price was \$225 and Lon MacDonald said he had trained and driven him in 2:18 and as he was only four years old and expected he would greatly reduce that time. Later, we were approached by Percy Grey who offered a trade for a mare by Birgton. She was very attractive and had made a fairly good showing. I traded for this mare and she was later called The Rexall Girl and raced fairly well at Charlottetown and Halifax. The Greys have always been noted horse traders and owners and have probably owned hundreds of them and at this date have several racing prospects.

A few years ago Johnny Simpson was the top harness driver and winner of principal stakes and leading driver at Roosevelt Raceway. Then he took a contract to train and drive the Hanover Shad Farm horses and for a time faded out of the picture, but is now back again. At Roosevelt Raceway a few nights ago he drove the 5-year-old stallion Torrid, by Knight Dream 1:59, to a win in 2:02 1/2. That same night he had a trio of winners, one second and two thirds in his six races. Dick Williams, that raced My Darling successfully a few years ago and gave her her record of 2:08 1/2, the same night won with the trotter Lord Steward 2:02 in 2:04 1/2 and increased his earnings to \$220,000. It is expected he will finish up the season the second largest money winning trotting gelding to date. The top money winner of all harness horses is Pronto Don, a gelding owned by Fair Acres stable, Du Quoin, Ill., with \$313,114. He is just about ready now to begin another tour of the racing wars for trainer Benny Schue.

And now we welcome again S. Thane Belyea of Fredericton with news from the capital of New Brunswick. "Just a few lines to tell you that Roy Sadler of Calais, Maine, shipped his two horses in here last Saturday for training. Mr. Sadler came here last week and had his nice house trailer

hooked up for electricity and he and Mrs. Sadler have a lovely home. They both help on the horses and I suppose you knew that Teddy Weir is doing the training. They have Mighty Bud by Yolo H. out of Rosa Budlong and Homestretch Ade 2:10 1/2 by McEllen, out of a Spencer mare. I saw Teddy working Mighty Bud and he is a lovely looking horse and is a full brother to Lew Merrill 2:17, that James Barnes raced here last year. We are expecting Frank Carr here Sunday with ten horses but I understand he will only be training six of them. As soon as I find out about them I will let you know. W. Raymond Crewdson, secretary of the Fredericton Exhibition Ltd., received a wire yesterday that Joseph H. Hughes of the George A. Hamid Co. had passed away. Joe was a great friend to all of us when he was here and will certainly be missed."

We deeply regret to learn of the passing of our good friend Joe, who we have known for many, many years. Joe paid a short visit here some months ago to arrange the booking of acts for the Centennial celebration and Old Home Week. He also made one of the largest contracts for vaudeville ever in Canada with the Quebec Exposition Association. Joe was a master descriptionist and in conversation could picture the qualities of the acts that would appeal to the spectators. He was honest and sincere and you could depend on what he recommended. The George A. Hamid Co. has been furnishing acts to the Charlotte-town Exhibition ever since they began using them in the days when the late C. R. Smallwood was secretary-manager. Not only here but everywhere Mr. Hughes travelled—and that takes in a lot of territory—he made friends who will indeed be very very sorry to learn of his passing.

We had the pleasure of a phone conversation yesterday with Carl MacKenzie, secretary of Truro Raceway. Carl informs us that there are 110 horses stabled at the track now with 20 more expected prior to the opening of the racing season, which will be at 2 p.m. on May 23rd. For that six races they have received 40 entries and expect a good afternoon's sport. Night racing will start on May 28 and will run twice weekly, Wednesday's and Saturday's throughout the season. Among the new arrivals at the track is Mighty Boy, recently purchased by H. E. Whobby of Dartmouth, from Heber Sweeney of Bridgewater, N. S. Mighty Boy is the winner of almost \$34,000 in his racing career and is a bay stallion by Volomite 2:03 1/2. He was purchased by Mr. Sweeney at the Harrisbury sale last fall and is figured a top performer over a half-mile track.

Another new arrival is Adomie, by the sensational sire Adios. This horse took a record of 2:28 in the mud at Dufferin Park last fall, and is a very promising pacer. He is owned by Elmer Bragg, Collingwood, N. S. Both the above go into the stable of Clayton MacLeod at Truro Raceway. Another high class horse that is on the way from Chicago by express is Josedale Double Hal 2:05 1/2, a 9-year-old by Josedale Counterpoint. He

raced in Chicago a few nights ago and was a very close third in 2:08. The new owner is A. D. Napke and we understand Mr. Napke has disposed of Future Counsel 2:04 1/2. Additional speed brought in by Frank Daniels from a recent trip to Maine is Gideon Hanover, an 11-year-old trotting stallion by Lawrence Hanover, with a record of 2:06. He is eligible to the 2:16 class. Another is Dr. Brodie 2:03, a 15-year-old pacer by Guy McKinney. Dr. Brodie in his long racing career has won over \$46,000 and is still a pacer to be reckoned with. Then there is Miss Kitty Hunter, that took a record as a 3-year-old of 2:10. She is now 15 years old and is eligible to the 2:17 class. Finally, there is Foxy Grapes 2:05 1/2, a 15-year-old pacer by Bonny castle. He won six starts last season and his total winnings are \$20,610. We also learn that the pacer Time Counts 2:06 1/2 has been sold to Donald Rankin, North West Arm, C.B.

We were delighted to have a letter from Ray Phillips of Cambridge, Mass., who asked us to get an eligibility certificate for his pacer Star Watson, that he plans to race this season. Ray's many friends will be glad to learn that he is in the best of health and eagerly follows the harness racing news in Down The Back Stretch. He wishes to be remembered to all his friends here, especially Len O'Meara.

In a letter to James Flood from his daughter Mrs. Joe O'Brien, we learn that Joe's stable has arrived at Roosevelt Raceway where all his horses are stabled and the remainder eleven 2-year-olds are at Goshen in charge of assistant trainer Walker. Assistant trainer Richardson is with Joe. As the distance from Roosevelt is not very great Joe can run over and train the 2-year-olds in addition to his driving at Roosevelt. The stable arrived in good condition and looks like a formidable one for the season's campaign.

The biggest opening race card in the history of the Cape Breton

Hunter's Corner

limit is 20 trout regardless of size. Reliable information indicates there are those who forget all about the count — 20, 25, 30, 40 — it's all the same to them. There are occasions, even if the wind is unfavourable, when trout go after bait like nobody's business so . . . just bear this in mind — twenty per day is the quota and limit. When I'm counting a catch and I reach the stage where the count runs thusly — 58, 59, 60,—I'd like to have a nice long needle and really jab it.

There are too many anglers and hunters whose actions are not governed by sound conservation principles when they are afield but by the fear the game warden will appear on the scene. This spring I would have liked to be able to be in fifteen places at the same time. The migratory birds, wildgeese in particular, underwent quite a bombardment. In March more harm is done, in one sense of the word, by driving birds off feeding grounds where food is plentiful and readily available than in the number actually

Sports Center has been lined up for Monday, May 23rd, featuring eight dashes with the cream of the Island harness horses going to the post. Well over a hundred trotters and pacers are available in Cape Breton for the Sports Center card this season. Forty of these will take part in Monday's races which will be held in the afternoon. Night racing will get away in June.

Torch Key 2:02 1/2 winner of the Queens Handicap Trot, purse \$10,000 on Friday night, May 13 at Roosevelt Raceway died unexpectedly in his stall May 15th of intestinal virus. His mile in 2:04 against some of the fastest trotters in the world had raised hopes that he would trot in 2 minutes this year. Particulars of the race will be found in the early part of these notes.

Here is a case in point. When the geese first arrived this spring excellent feeding conditions existed at Newton Creek between the old Portree bridge and the main bridge above on the Trans Canada highway. An estimated five or six hundred geese were congregated there and feeling quite pleased with themselves until one evening there was a crash of gunfire from the bush lined bank and hot lead hissed and splattered on the water amid the feeding birds. The flock took off with loud commotion leaving several black mounds flapping on the water or kicking in an ever narrowing circle. One member flapped over the estuary in the direction taken by its mates and honking loudly. Translated into our language: "Wait for me, wait for me!"

For minutes after the shooting the air was crisscrossed with skeins of bewildered geese. Ragged flocks loomed above the green of the spruce woods or stood out in bold relief over the wide expanse of the Bay. A few returned and circled high over the disaster scene for a look before pulling out — a last futile gesture to locate missing family members. A week later, driven by an acute food shortage, the flocks began drifting back and the sheltered creek was again dotted with black windrows of feeding

geese until — the spruce bushes, to be in. I decided to have a look- once more sprouted mushrooms, see. The first two stated they were having a race piloting two wooden blocks on the outgoing tide. I inquired: "Do you need a dip net for that?" The reddish member of the pair had the answer: "I picked that up on the marsh." No smelts were in evidence so that was that. The third youth was some distance away. I was wearing dungarees and I guess the guy didn't suspect who I was, not at the beginning at any rate. The following brief conversation took place. "What are you doing?" "Sailing boats." "You wouldn't be after smelts would you?" "No, I don't like smelts." Well don't. In a tone that was badly in need of a little salt he replied: "Why, who's going to stop me, Spur Jenkens isn't around." —pause— "Or is he?"

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Boys' \$6.95 Gabardine Jackets \$4.25

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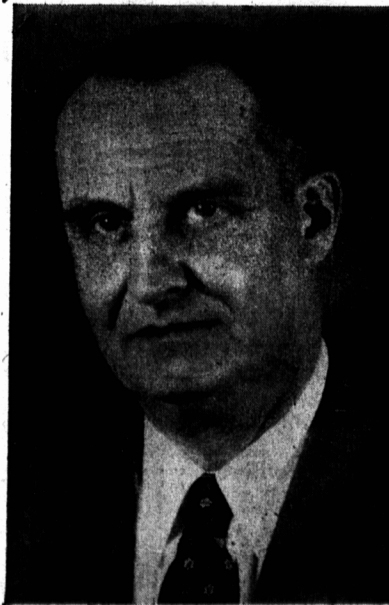
HAMBLY & INNIS

MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR

TONIGHT LISTEN TO THESE IMPORTANT BROADCASTS



Walter R. Shaw
Candidate for Councillor Third District of King's over CFCY at 9:00 Standard Time



R. R. BELL
Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party over CFCY and CJRW at 10:00 STANDARD TIME



Walter G. MacKenzie
Candidate for Councillor First District of Queen's over CFCY at 6:15 Standard Time