

Back Stretch

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Driver Jimmie Cruise will miss the winter meeting at Dufferin track this year for the first time in four years. Following the wind up at Yonkers Raceway Cruise is going to Kentucky to do some hunting and on return will take possession of the newly acquired Harmony Farm, Mount Vernon, Ohio. It consists of 44 acres and there is a large stable that will accommodate about two dozen horses. Jimmie will work his horses over the near-by Mount Vernon fair grounds. Joe O'Brien who knows Jimmie very well and has raced many times against him, says that he has the faculty of taking a horse out of the winter work and getting him ready and judiciously racing him through the summer. Often Cruise will not take a horse out of the winter work until he has been successful with his mode of training and perhaps too many miles before he races. Just the other day we read an article on that subject which claimed that trainers and drivers were over-doing the before race workout.

Franklyn Safford is well known to quite a number of our horsemen in this Province and he made the headlines a few years ago when he decreased his bulk from 250 lbs. to 220 by dieting. We don't know whether he has been able to maintain the lower avoirdupois or not but he still continues a very successful driver. This year he has 50 head in training at Pinehurst, N.C. That is certainly a big proposition and will require a lot of help.

To those of us who are members of the United States Trotting Association in the Maritimes there is one irritating feature and it is the fact that when we go to the customs to get our annual copy of the Year Book we have to pay anywhere from 75 cents up duty. The Year Book is free to every member of the United States Trotting Association together with Hoop Beals, when the annual membership fee of \$10.00 is paid, and therefore we have always felt that duty should not be collected. Now a notice is being sent out from Columbus, Ohio, to all Canadian members of the U.S.T.A. which contains these paragraphs: "Some of the Year Books sent to Canadian members have been held in Customs for duty and some Year Books have been returned to us as unclaimed. We have taken it up with the Customs and Excise Department, Mr. J. B. Wilson, Dominion Customs Appraiser, states: 'When sent to members of the Association without charge, as part of their membership privileges, the Department will not object to the entry of the book free of customs duty under tariff item 172 and without payment of the consumption or sales tax. If you will state the customs ports in Canada where such importations have been held for payment of duty and/or sales tax, the matter will be taken up with the collectors concerned.'

"Mr. Wilson further wrote: 'If you wish to send copies of the departmental letter dealing with your year book, to your Canadian members, they may be presented

at the various customs offices for the purpose of facilitating the clearance of the books without payment of duty and the consumption or sales tax.' We are writing each member to advise of this official ruling. We suggest you save this letter to present if your Year Book is held in Customs. Please advise us also if your book is held and at which point of entry. Signed, Don R. Miller, executive vice president."

The Year Book for 1952, Vol. 65, No. 1, will be delivered February 1st. It will be a complete volume on racing and eligibility of horses with many other interesting statistics. To secure it on that date the membership fee of \$10.00 should be remitted early.

A full page writeup of the Quebec City race track and a glimpse of its history and achievements appears in the Harness Horse of November 19th. This is a brief from it... A page was added to the history of the harness horse sport when on the 26th of October last the 98th program of the season was presented at the Quebec track and a new Canadian record was set for the number of meetings offered during a complete season. For the same period the attendance reached a new high of 312,115 racing fans. It was in 1947 that the Quebec Harness Racing Club Reg'd. took charge of the local track and in 1948 an electrical system was installed thus promoting night racing, which has increased to 62 the total programs. In 1948 the amount paid out in purses was \$109,815 and this year the total amount was raised to \$251,465. The total number of staffs in 1948 was 154 and it is now 485.

A jogging track has been laid out on the inside of the regular race track and in the centre of these ovals you can see beautiful flower beds with more than 40,000 plants embellishing this centre. Because of the encouragement given by the racing fans the management of the club are carrying on many improvements. The track is being resurfaced so that it will be one of the fastest on the continent. Because of the importance of general appearance it has been decided that a greenhouse will be built which will produce under the direction of the appointed gardener of the club, 70,000 plants.

The President of the Quebec Harness Racing Club Reg'd, is Jacques J. Gravel, well known sportsman who for the last fifteen years has been interested in trotters and pacers. Another largely responsible for this success is Joseph Cauchon, who since 1911 has been a keen patron of the racing sport. He now owns one of the best stables in the country and each fall he spares nothing in expense to bring the best horses to Quebec. Other pioneers who have worked very hard for the Quebec track are Jules Giguere and Henri Bertrand. Mr. Giguere is considered top authority in classification and Mr. Bertrand as secretary, brings to his acquired knowledge of the sport years of experience as radio commentator and sportscaster. Photos of the Quebec track and grounds, its entrance, flower beds and officials are shown on the page and certainly to those who have not been there to see it, are a revelation. However, we have heard a good deal about the Quebec track from our friend Rankin McLaine, who pays an annual visit or more to it. We were delighted to have an invitation to attend their annual meeting tonight but regretted that it was impossible to be present.

The trotter Milldale 2.14 2/5 and the pacer Neil Budlong 2.12 3/5, both owned by Wellington McNeill, Southport, were sent to Truro last weekend and are now in the stable of Johnny Conroy, who also has other horses belonging to Mr. McNeill. These two, together with others being trained by Johnny, will give him one of the most formidable stables in the Maritimes for 1953. We believe that when the points are released Johnny will have an average very close to the top among Maritime drivers for 1952.

It will be a surprise to most of our readers to learn that Henry Clukey is the 1952 Yonkers Raceway leading driver under the Universal Driver Rating System, with a rating of 367. Clukey is 65 years old and a grandfather four times, and he shared honors with 29-year-old Billy Haughton, who recently became a father for the first time. Haughton had the most victories—46. Stanley Dancer, 25 years old, who was top reinsman in 1950-51, was fourth with 302. Maritime drivers will remember Henry very well when he handled the Sullivan and Mawhinney horses and raced at Fredericton Exhibition meets. Henry had his horses trained so that they would start like a bullet from about fifty yards from the wire and it was difficult to get away on even terms with him. As our readers well know, he set the track record pacing there of 2:02 1/2 in 1937 with Walter Dale 2:00 3/4.

**PIONEER DOCTOR**  
Francis Xavier Tessier of Quebec, founder of the first medical Journal published in Canada, died in 1835.

The Week at S.D.U.

"Now are their brows bound with victorious wreaths Their torn sweaters hung up for testaments."

This to mis quote Shakespeare. One may sum up the situation of the McCurdy Cup winners. These torn sweaters give testimony to the most successful team ever to play P. E. I. and to the smartest playing group of men to enter the lists of Maritime English Rugby in '52. Fortunately for the Saints, the satisfaction experienced by their 31-0 win over the Wanderers was not dimmed because of the circumstances concerning the trophy. Many of the players will not be at S. D. U. next year, to these, to Mr. McAdam and the team in general, the Week extends sincerest congratulations for their personal achievement and for the honor they brought to their college and province.

Here a "pat on the back" is due Football Manager, Simeon Farmer. His position required a great deal of work and time, both of which he gave unflinchingly. From preparing the football field to attending to the needs of the players at work, he did all well and deserves the distinction of being manager of the Maritime champions. As the Saints say, "What's the matter with Simeon?"

Saturday the High School Drama Festival was held with Grades X, XI and XII presenting respectively, "The Doctor in Spite of Himself," "Dress Reversal" and "The Valiant". The directors, Father Arsenault, Gerard McCarthy and Edward Baird did an excellent job of directing the efforts and capabilities of these young devotees of the Thespian art. An added feature of the evening was vocal renditions by the High School Glee Club. For this they deserve special mention as they set an example for those of college years. Father Roche very capably adjudicated the presentations and gave practical advice concerning the mechanics of staging etc. Like the victorious Juniors of the previous Wednesday night Grade XI carried off honors not only for their better acting, but also because of the evidence of the hard work they put into it and the educational benefit and enjoyment they derived from it.

Although the last intramural football game was played about three weeks ago between the Juniors and Seniors, the Juniors could not claim a victory for their 6-0 win because of a protest by the opposing team. Though there was some basis for contention in that one try was questioned and the game was played while supposedly under protest, the Seniors withdrew their stand to leave the centennial class champion for the second straight year. On the winning team were: forwards, G. Coady, C. Morrison, J. Johnson, J. Quinn, J. Dunphy and L. McQuaid halves, J. Fisher and L. Clarkin; three quarters, B. MacIsaac, L. Murphy, C. Monahan and G. Kilbride; fullback, Frank Zakem; subs, Simeon Farmer, J. Riley and L. Shea.

In the juvenile league competition Continued on page 9

Hunter's Corner

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hands of a hunter who knows how to use it makes for a tricky combination. It's so tricky that many battle-wise old ganders now balk at alighting in a field that is already occupied. It makes no difference whether by real live members of his own kind or decoys... he'll bring his charges down in a field where he has nothing on his mind but lurking hunters. "Crawlers" is a new word coined this fall. I overheard a hunter commenting on another member of the clan and the number of geese he got this season: "He's not a goose hunter... he's a crawler".

The total bag of geese this past season runs into the thousands. I have one specific hunting section in mind that contributed over 200 geese, or approximately 600 goose dinners, toward cutting down on the meat bill. It takes better than an average family to clean up on a 10 pound goose at the third sitting. Geese are pretty smart birds but are inclined to forget past miseries once the season closes. We have thousands of geese still with us who will be inclined to relax vigilance slightly once they realize the guns have become silent. It has been a good goose season and all true sportsmen will be satisfied to lay away the old shooting iron till the snow white bunnies dart along the swamp runways. There are hunters on the other hand who will be on the prowl for geese until the honking of the last south bound flock fades into nothingness. Its up to all conservationists to assist in 'putting the arm' on such genetry.

Some beavers have already gotten their toes pinched. Some have left toes behind and live to have them pinched some other day if they are not careful. Beaver are not too hard to entice into a trap the first time but catch on very quickly as they are brainy animals. One thing is certain, no trapper is going to make a fortune trapping beaver. Prices for their pelts today is far below what they were eight or ten years ago. As high as \$110.00 per pelt were reached for the extra large ones, known to the trade as Blankets, but today, judging from last season's prices, \$35.00 is about tops. Taking kits medium, large and 'blanket' skins, it is doubtful if the price will average over \$18.00 per pelt. Now don't take this quotation as gospel in respect to this season's prices as I have nothing definite to go on, to date. Some have talked as if they expected from \$80.00 to

\$100.00 per skin but this is just wishful thinking.

Apart from the price angle no one need expect to go out and catch two or three beaver every morning. One may expect a lot of sprung traps and no catch excepting a few brown hairs or tip of a toe. Beaver swim with their fore feet tucked in close to their sides and the trap is sprung by their chest instead of their feet. Their webbed hind feet are quite large, large enough to cover an ordinary spring trap, and the jaws close on tough slippery skin and falls to obtain a hold. Adult beaver weigh from 40 to 60 pounds and an animal of that poundage is sometimes hard to hold when the trap closes on a foot. One was caught in mid week that weighed 52 pounds. I've fooled

around with them quite a bit in the last few years trying to live-trap and transport to some other section. Sometimes I was successful, more times not. A beaver can make a monkey out of a trapper almost as quick as a fox. I'd hate to see the last beaver taken, but I imagine it will be a few years before that happens. Once the pressure is put on any species of wildlife, like the effort to exterminate the skunks, for instance, they'll resort to a lot of tricks in order to survive.

The near shooting fatality at Summerside this week was once more brought forcibly home to the general public the grave danger in the indiscriminate use of .22 calibre rifles. Every year accidents, and near accidents, occur with this weapon, the news of which never

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reaches the Press. It is an offence to hunt game in this province with a rifle, and the only legal use to which they may be put is for target work. A feeling is growing that legislation should be put on the statutes with a view of curtailing the sale and use of .22 calibre rifles.

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