

'TOWN AND COUNTRY,'

A WEEKLY RECORD OF

Sports, Recreations, Live Stock Matters

ETC., ETC., ETC.

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Town and Country.

TORONTO, ONT., JULY 14, 1880.

CHEATING THE LAW.

A fit of virtuous indignation swept over the greater part of this continent a few years since, whereby, in many of the States of North America as well as in Canada, pool selling was voted illegal and fines and imprisonments were threatened the transgressors. It was in New York that the initial movement was made, and at that time it was most essential that something should be done to stop the encouragement and the inducement for speculation amongst the youths and boys of the city. New York pool-sellers, or at least a good many of them, sold one dollar mutuels, straight and combination, and these cheap rooms were thronged by office boys, impecunious youths and broken down "sports." Something had to be done to prevent boys betting, and as it was out of the question to make distinctions between one poolroom and another the whole business was made illegal. Other states where there was not the same necessity existing as in New York followed the example of the Empire State, amongst others that of Michigan. Notwithstanding this pool-selling was openly conducted on the Hamtrac course at Detroit during the racing meeting, and on Saturday last a most remarkable scene occurred in which the pool-sellers were aided and abetted by justices, magistrates, the prosecuting attorney, the Mayor,

Captain of Police *et hoc genus omne* to openly defy the law.

Warrants had been issued and served on Messrs. Bride and Armstrong, the pool-sellers, on Friday last, and Mayor Thompson and another gave bail for them to appear for trial. On Saturday while the racing was in progress, and also the pool-selling, three constables appeared armed with further warrants issued by Justice Toll. It had been stated publicly that these warrants would be served on the track, and no less a personage than Justice Toll himself was present for the avowed purpose of being ready to take bail as soon as the warrants were served, as he said he "did not issue warrants for the purpose of persecution." So far we had always thought the issuing of warrants for law-breakers was the duty of all justices, and not the shielding of law-breakers, it not being for them to decide which laws should be enforced or not. To cut the story short the arrests were made, and Justice Toll jumped into the pool-box as soon as the constables, made out the bail bonds, and the three baffled blues had to retire and permit the pool-selling to proceed. Not to be outdone more warrants were procured, and the police again returned to the track about five o'clock. Fighting their way to the pool-stand they there encountered Mayor Thompson, City Councillor Baker, Prosecuting Attorney Brevoort and others. The constables declined to show their warrants, and one of them pushing or being pushed up against Mr. Brevoort, that gentleman promptly picked the officer up and dropped him outside the box. This was the signal for a general melee, to which the police on the track were at once called, with the result that the three constables were arrested, rushed into the Black Maria and driven off the ground with torn clothes and bleeding wounds to testify to their gallantry in defying numbers. When outside the grounds the poor fellows were released and made tracks for home, we presume; at least they did not return to the track.

Here we have one of the biggest farces that has ever been enacted in connection with the ridiculous measure known as the pool bill and men protected by the representatives of the law in open violation of the law, and of their oaths of office. Perhaps the absurdity of the whole affair may call the attention of legislators to the working of the pool-bill, and have it so far amended that on properly organized tracks and under the authority of the associations pool-selling may be carried on. We noted the evil tendencies of the New York pool-rooms during 1875 and 1876, and we are at one with those who would put and keep down pool-rooms in cities. On race-tracks, however, it is entirely different, and is as legitimate a method of speculation as putting up a margin on mining or any other stocks, and decidedly better than the gambling stock brokers' exchanges of Wall and Broad streets, which are the result of stopping pool-selling in that city. Speculation on racing cannot be suppressed, as is shown in England, where after years of stringent legislation it is carried on as much as ever, and the proper way is to see that it is conducted in a legitimate manner and under the auspices of men to whose interest it is to keep the name of their Associations untarnished.

RACE MEETING AT WOODBINE.

We have the pleasure to direct the attention of owners and trainers to the advertisement which will be found on our outside page, of the two day's meeting to be held at Woodbine Park, Toronto, on July 28 and 29. An excellent programme has been arranged, and the six purses amount to close upon \$1200. Three races take place on each day, and there being trotting as well as running there will be no lack of sport. It is much to be desired that good

support be given to this meeting as it is but the initial steps towards a general revival of racing at Toronto. The promoters if the horsemen give them the amount of encouragement they hope for will not be slow to give other meetings ere the season closes, so that it practically rests with owners and trainers whether Toronto will take its proper place as a Canadian Turf Centre or not.

THE ASSOCIATION REGATTA.—In our advertising columns will be found the full announcement of the first regatta of the Canadian Amateur Association, which will take place on Toronto Bay on August 4. Since our last issue the Association received an offer of a draft for \$250 from the Hop Bitters Company, with which to purchase a cup, and this was at once accepted. Hanlan has also given \$100 to the prize fund, and by degrees the treasurer's account is gradually swelling. There is plenty of room, however, for additional contributions, over \$1,000 being yet wanted to pay expenses. There should be no difficulty about getting that sum, however, long before regatta day.

A CURIOSITY.—Mr. R. Wilson, the President of the Toronto Gun Club, has received from Quebec a piece of the oak timbers of the *L'Original*, the French frigate which sank off Quebec in September, 1756. Some months since the wreck was finally dislodged from the channel, where it interfered greatly with navigation, and the oak timbers and beams were found to be as sound as the day they were put in the ship. The iron work was all wasted away, however, by the action of the water. The piece of timber received by Mr. Wilson is 6 ft. long by 9 inches wide and 8 inches thick, and is of extraordinary weight for its size.

THE SEA WORLD AND FISHING GAZETTE.—Mr. Chas. Hallock, so well known as the Editor in Chief for many years of *Forest and Stream*, and whose *Gazette* is the standard authority on fishing and shooting throughout the continent, is now connected with the *Sea World and Fishing Gazette*, a weekly journal published at 118 Fulton street, New York. It has now reached its 47th number, and that fact is conclusive as to its filling a want in the American newspaper world. It is the first journal so far as we are aware that has ever paid attention to the business part of fishery for the markets; combined with this we have plenty of information on fishing for pleasure, and the articles in that department are most instructive and pleasant reading. All lovers of the rod should be on the subscription list of Mr. Hallock's paper, and they will find it a good investment for their money, both for its practical hints and gossip.

TORONTO DOG SHOW.—We have received several of the premium lists for the dog show to be held in connection with the Industrial Exhibition at Toronto on Sept. 8, 9 and 10. The prizes are large enough to more than pay expenses of the winners, the total amount being \$400, exclusive of silver medals. It now remains to be seen whether Canadian breeders and owners will support a genuine effort to supply a first-class bench. We have the assurance of the directors of the Industrial Exhibition that if it is well patronized and the classes fill they will give much larger prizes next year and more of them. Premium lists with forms of entry may be obtained from Mr. A. D. Stewart, Osgoode Hall, Toronto.

Hiram Shain and his bay stallion Bdy Fearnought, and D. Gillis and his chestnut stallion Fulton, have been suspended by order of the Lyons, N. Y., Driving Park Association. Shain and his horse have also been suspended by order of the Pre-emption Park, Geneva, N. Y.