

Sporting.

NOTES.

PREVIOUS to 1887 the distance over which the Queen's Plate was run for was 1½ mile. Since it has been run for over 1½ mile, namely for seven years the average time has been 2.18 within a very slight fraction. In the seven years three-year-olds have won four times, five-year-olds once, and four-year-olds twice. In the preceding five years when the distance was 1½ mile, a three-year-old only won once.

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In his Racing Reminiscences, Harry Custance tells a capital story about the late Fred Archer. That eminent jockey was every bit as good across country as on the flat; but on the occasion of a visit to Melton Mowbray he was doomed to various disasters. "In the course of conversation on the Sunday," relates Custance, "we found that he had had four days hunting, five falls, knocked two people over and been fined £1 and costs for riding on the footpath." On the Monday he went to hunt with the Quorn on the Nottingham side, whilst Custance was hunting with the Cottemore nearer home. "My wife went to Melton," the narrator continues, "and walking to the station someone tapped her on the shoulder. On looking around she saw Fred Archer laughing all over his face. He said: 'Toll the governor I finished up well. I killed a horse yesterday.' Sure enough he had done so. It was an old hunter called Garthorpe, belonging to Lord Wilton. That he had a hard day, and the old horse, who made a noise, became very tired and cracked up. Fred got him into a stable as soon as he could, but he died soon after getting there. When he took the saddle and bridle back to Egerton Lodge, he said to Joe Martin, the stud-groom: 'Here you are; this is the finish of a real good week.'"

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LAST week two of England's principal three-year-old races were decided, the Two Thousand and One Thousand Guineas. The first of these was won by the favorite, Lord Rosebery's h.c. Ladas, by Hampton Illuminata, with the second favorite, Lord Alington's h.c. Match Box, by St. Simon—Match Girl, second, and Sir Edmund Maple's h.c. Athlone, a colt that had not run before, by Sarabande—Princess. Arena, third. The other starters were Mr. Douglas Baird's St. Florian, by St. Simon; Prince Soltyreff's Speed, by Hampton; Lord Bradford's Hornbeam, by Chippendale; Mr. C. D. Rose's St. Hilaire, by St. Simon; and Mr. Oswald's Salsator, by Galliard, eight in all, the smallest field since Ayrshire won in 1888, when only six started. Ladas started at six to five on, Match Box at nine to four against, and St. Florian nine to one against. Ladas won easily by a length and a half, no less than six lengths separating second and third.

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LADAS BEATING WON THE TWO THOUSAND,

the question now is, will he win the Derby, and judging from the way he beat Matchbox it seems something on that he will. In that case Lord Rosebery will have the honor of being the first premier of England that ever won the world's most renowned race. It is more than hinted that his lordship will then consider that his cup of turf honors is full to the brim and will retire to devote his whole attention to the game of politics. During the past thirty-four years the Two Thousand and winner has added the Derby to his laurels nine times, namely, Macaroni in 1863, Pretuler in 1865, Lord Lyon in 1866, Gaden in 1869, Shotover in 1882, Ormonds in 1886, Ayrshire in 1888, Common in 1891 and Isingham in 1893. That Ladas will prove himself equal to any of these is more than probable. It is confidently asserted that in that case the Liberal party will have a better chance of winning in the general election for parliament that it is generally conceded is not far off. Although the English people are very fond of sport it is greatly to be doubted if they will allow their political opinions to be swayed to the slightest extent by a horse race, no matter how important the event itself may be or how noble and able the owner. In fact we regard the assertion that the winning of the Derby will change one vote as the veriest balderdash. Individuals like Mr. Murray have been helped politically by their prowess on the turf and have so held their popularity for years; but that has arisen from pride in the district as much as from pride in the man. Lord Rosebery has no district and will be judged by his own acts rather than by the performance of a horse. The English character is not quite so unstable as the penny-a-liners who write as we have quoted would have the world believe.

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TURNING to the race for the One Thousand Guineas, which is for fillies, the Two Thousand being for both colts and fillies, we find another nobleman successful in the Duke of Portland, whose Amiable, by St. Simon—Tact, outran a field of eleven others. Mr. Russell's h.f. Lady Minting, by Minting—Virginia Shore, being second, three lengths away, and four lengths in front of the third filly, Mr. Henry Milner's h.f. Mecca, by Isomony—Pilgrimage. The time for the mile was 1.46, or 11 seconds slower than Ladas won the Two Thousand in. While fillies are eligible for the Derby, Amiable is not entered for that race, but is for the St. Leger, where she will have an opportunity of testing her merits against Ladas. The latter it should be mentioned was unbeaten last year, winning with ease the following stakes: The Woodstock, at Epsom; the Coventry, at Ascot; the Champagne, at Doncaster; and the Middle Park Plate, at Newmarket.

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RECOGNISING the ocean, we are reminded that Canada's greatest race meeting, that of the Ontario Jockey Club at Woodbine Park, is down for next week from Tuesday to Saturday inclusive. While the Queen's Plate is the only race that has been talked of for months past, other

of the events for which the entries have closed have filled splendidly, not only as regards numbers but also as regards quality, which improves year by year. Although the Queen's Plate race may possibly not be run as fast as it was last year, which was the fastest on record, notwithstanding that there is no feasible reason why it should not be, there is every prospect of a keener contest. Last year it will be remembered that Mr. Seagram's pair Martello and Athalo, since dead, literally ran away from the remainder of the field, easily finishing first and second, the time being 2.14. That the pair from the same stable—Joe Miller and Vicar of Wakefield—may do the same thing this year is of course within the bounds of possibility, but we rather imagine that in Thorndiffe, Lochvihar, Lou Daly and Dictator, they will find harder nuts to crack than Martello and Athalo had in Heather Bloom, Lou Daly, Aspinell, King Joe, and three others of decidedly ordinary caliber. Lou Daly, it will be noticed, is a probable starter this year, but she is reported in much better condition and is therefore likely to give a better account of herself. Anyway it strikes us that Thorndiffe, Lochvihar and Dictator have each a right to be considered better than Heather Bloom, last year's third. Thus there is every probability of a harder fought contest. How many will start out of the twenty-two entries is yet an open question, but it seems pretty certain that there will not be more than eleven or twelve, which we should enumerate as follows:

Brookdale Stable's, Annie D, by Ter-	121
Brookdale Stable's, Ben Hur, 4,	122
A. G. Alexander's h.c. Ben Hur, 4,	121
by Albert—Dolly	122
T. D. Hodgson's (London) ch.f. Lou	121
Daly, 4, by Albert—Lady Lucy	117
B. C. (Toronto) h.c. Thorndiffe, 3,	117
by Macaroni—Thistle	116
J. E. Seagram's (Waterloo) h.c. Vicar	106
of Wakefield, 3, by Springfield—	106
Bonnie Vic	106
E. Burgess' (Woodstock) h.c. Prince	106
Victor, 3, by Fred B. Ellis H.	106
Dr. Lang's (Owen Sound) ch.c. Dicta-	106
tor, 3, by Shillington—Georgia	106
J. E. Seagram's h.g. Joe Miller, 3,	103
by Springfield—Milly	103
Wm. Hendrie's (Hamilton) h.g. Joe	103
Lochvihar, 3, by Labson—Cann-	103
h.c. Leo	103
Wm. Hendrie's h.f. Fraulien, 3, by	101
'an' Don—Bourgeois Star	101
Brookdale Stable's (Barrie) h.f. Regina,	101
3, by King Bob—Blackbird	101
Jon. Duggan's (Toronto) ch.f. Merry-	101
thought, 3, by The Chicken—Al-	101
geria	101

It is possible Harry A., 5, 126 lbs, Frankie C., 4, 117 lbs, and Rosa Daly, 3, 101 lbs, will also face the starter, but it is hardly likely.

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To choose a winner will be a very hard task. There is one thing than can be said, namely, that there never was a year when there was less talk about horses going wrong. While two or three may not be at their very best, the reports are to the effect that the majority are in just as good trim as could be hoped for. This is due to the beautiful and early spring we have had. Last year not only did the spring set in late, but when it did come along the weather generally was had right

up to the meeting, and, in fact, during the meeting itself. This year we hope, with justification it would seem, for better things. At the present moment the track and all its surroundings are in the very pink of condition. Extra drainage has been put in and the club stand greatly improved. Than the Ontario Jockey Club it is extremely doubtful if a better managed institution exists. All the money made is devoted to increasing the prize to be won and in improvements at the Park. Such a thing as a dividend for the shareholders is not thought of, all seemingly being content to let their investment stand individually unremunerative, providing only that the racing is good and squarely and honestly conducted. For the thirteen years in which the club has been in existence there has been little to complain of on that score. Those who know what sports of the track were in Toronto before the rise of the club are at times in marvelling at the wonderful progress that has been made, at the remarkable improvement that has been achieved. While every member of the executive and every officer have worked with diligence and self-sacrifice, one man has almost entirely had the entire direction of affairs and it is to Mr. T. C. Patterson's sagacity and untiring energy that the club mainly owes its present prosperous and wholesome condition. His efforts have been ably endorsed by his associates, Mr. Wm. Hendrie (Hamilton) as president, Messrs. G. W. Torrance and A. Smith, V.S., and Major Mead, as members of the executive committee, and Mr. Lyndhurst has acted as secretary, all of whom accept their share of the work with unflinching and unflinching energy. Toronto can never too highly appreciate the debt it owes these gentlemen, for by their work they undoubtedly bring many thousands of dollars early to the city. Last year a part of the old stand—the stand that stood when the club took hold of the premises—collapsed, injuring a score of people, who claimed and received between them upwards of \$6,000, but for that untoward event \$5,000 would probably have been added to the purse, which now, however, foot up to something like the very respectable total, with the stake money, of twenty-one or twenty-two thousand dollars for the five days' racing. All this, however, is by the way. It is of the races themselves that we would speak.

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DURING the past week the exercising has been of a little more rapid description than it was previously. Lochvihar is said to have been asked the question at Hamilton, and not to have responded any too satisfactorily. Thorndiffe only arrived at the track from Mr. Robert Davies' farm on Tuesday, and when he went to press had not been put through his paces to any great extent. He did, however, on Tuesday cover the mile and a quarter, which is the Queen's Plate distance, in 2.21, but that is not thought to be within seven or eight seconds of the limit of his speed. It was his last essay since removal from his owner's half-mile somewhat sandy track, but for

all that some journeymen would think it a wonder. We think it was a miracle, as the colt was extended, while the but in a couple of days he knew more. Dieting along, but up to the point of his racing wanting to his chances. He was bright and early in the morning, and he was answered by his race in 2.16, or with Queen's Plate record in several pounds. Last Daly has also her work, and also a dangerous factor in his honesty, but so others have done anywhere near so upon whose performance at this period of the season is likely to be compared. His nearest competitor is thought to be Dux. Thorndiffe surprised us all, but doing much need, but much is likely to be general racing, beyond events as have close know little, and the like predicting. However, that the result is a miracle, that everything that the race course is not and most reliable, and that the greatest meeting of the year is to be held. All the elements of fine work will truly be sports worthy of the gallop of Canada that never failed to assemble south of May on the

PENDING the full and expectations were more that entries close with the Secret Ogden, at his office, on Saturday at 3 p.m. First Purse, Walker, Cdn. Royal Canadian Hbr's Flat Race Hbr's Washline Nursery's Woodstock Plate, H.

We take pleasure in stating that Mr. Robert Davies' farm is, through Canada, These are Mr. Ernest out of Minnesota of the great the States, and of slow, including the Chicago; Admiral, bought by Chas. R. of imp. Dauntless, imp. Parisian, by Thompson's out of the Chief. Better