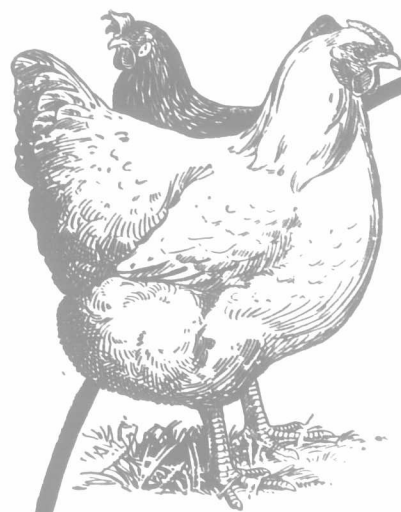


GOSSIP.

John Gibson, who bred the noted Canadian-owned horse, "The Eel," has given the facts about the gray pacer, and has answered the somewhat disparaging statements made by a Michigan man, who sought to throw cold water on the horse. In the article written by the Michigan man, and which appeared in The Horseman, signed by "Mich.," the writer states that John Gibson, some years ago, lived some miles west of Dundee, in Munroe County, and that he had a gray horse with a peculiarly wobbly gait, which got over the ground in pretty good shape, but was such a ludicrous spectacle that Gibson, who was something of a horseman, failed to have much faith in his future as a colt, and sold him for about \$50 to a man who seemed to want it. Less than a year ago the purchaser seemed to lose faith in the horse, and a Canadian who happened along offered him \$150. The deal was closed. Meanwhile the horse developed into a pretty fair pacer, and Canadian people thought him worth training, although on account of his wobbly gait they named him The Eel. It has been learned that Mr. Gibson, former owner, is now residing somewhere in the northern part of the State. As to this, Mr. Gibson says:

"The facts of my connection with The Eel are as follows: I bred the gray stallion now known all over the world as The Eel 2:02 1/4. He was foaled in 1902, and while a weanling I drove Belle Bidwell, his dam, to Deerfield, and she showed so much action and speed that Joe Bragg, owner of Gambolier, sire of The Eel, became anxious to own her colt by Gambolier, especially as Belle Bidwell was then known as the dam of Henry C. Smith 2:16. After some dickering, I sold the colt to Bragg for \$90 and the service of Gambolier (the service that resulted in The Eel) to Belle Bidwell and one other service to Belle Boyd, dam of Belle Bidwell. The colt at that time was as pretty as a picture, but was not even halter-broken, but was a natural pacer, and as pure gaited as any colt I ever set eyes on. After Bragg got him he had him registered under the name of Silver Joe. Along in the spring or late winter—anyway when the Wabash sale was on that year—Bragg attended the sale and became acquainted with Frank Entricken, of Tavistock, Canada, and persuaded him to visit Deerfield to see Henry C. Smith, then for sale. Mr. Entricken at that time saw the gray colt, and was so impressed with his appearance that he passed Henry C. Smith by and returned to Deerfield, accompanied by Dan McEwen, and the colt, still only halter-broken, was sold to Mr. Entricken, the showing of the colt's dam, which could show a 2:30 trotting gait, and was known to have roaded fourteen miles in 57 minutes, having a lot to do with the sale. At this same visit Mr. McEwen drove Henry C. Smith, then 2:16. In 1907, when the colt Silver Joe was but five years old, he was taken along with McEwen's string, part of the time in the Grand Circuit, and letters from Mr. Entricken to me informed me of the colt's wonderful speed trial miles, at Rochester, N.Y., in 2:05 1/4, and quarters better than a two-minute gait. It is now turf history, the wonderful coup that McEwen carried to a successful issue last winter on the ice track, when he captured the \$1,000 slow class at Ottawa, Canada, and a few days later the \$1,000 free-for-all pace at the same place, beating a big field of horses in the second race, among them being so good a pacer as Nervolo 2:04. In the stake race he not only romped away with the offered money, but took into camp all the money that the speculators from the States, especially the Syracuse (N. Y.) betting crowd, had with them. The Canadian papers at the time stated that it took a Government mail pouch to hold all the money that the bookies had turned over to Messrs. Entricken, McEwen & Co. To the cover of Gambolier, on Belle Boyd, a gray filly was foaled, and is at present owned near Blissfield, Mich., which had all kinds of speed, but getting into bad hands, developed pulling traits that made her hard to control. As she is now only five years old, it seems she should, in some patient, intelligent trainer's hands, develop into a very fast trotter. She is the counterpart of The Eel in appearance. My mare, Belle Bidwell, is now in foal to



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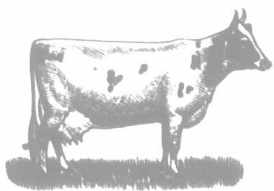
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