

TOO MANY JUDGES

Some of the finishes at Saratoga have been remarkably fierce and close. The judges in the stand and the multitude have not seen them alike. As a consequence, criticisms have been in order, and they have been frequent, and sometimes severe. In the All Aged Stakes, when Tom Ochiltree, Parole, and Vera Cruz passed the staff, the excitement was intense. The crowd gathered on all sides of the timer's stand and crowded the lawn. "Who won?" was upon every man's lips. The answers came "Parole," "Tom Ochiltree," "Vera Cruz," and "Why, Vera Cruz, by a neck." Amid this babel of tongues no opinion could be formed. The excitement was very high. The judges were compelled to delay several minutes, for the Secretary to report how the weights stood, during which time the crowd increased, and with it the excitement. Bets were made that this, that, or the other horse had won. Finally the numbers are placed showing Vera Cruz as the winner, with Tom Ochiltree second, and Parole third. The disappointed were very emphatic, while the backers of the winner rent the air with wild shouts.

We regard such criticisms as characterized this event as very deleterious to the interests of the turf. It can hardly be avoided, however, until judges' stands are lowered to nearly parallel with the heads of the horses, and the number of judges is reduced to one in all running races. We have heretofore called attention to the fact that more than one judge cannot see the actual finish. The public understand this, and they seem to take to the idea that it is the two that do not see the finish, as it actually is who decide the issue. This may or may not be so, and yet it would be far more satisfactory to have but one judge in the stand. The system has at least given satisfaction, wherever it has been tried, while the other has not. This alone should be a strong argument in favor of a change.

Another important consideration in this connection is the fact that, by adopting the one-judge system, only men of incorruptible integrity, sound sense, well versed in the laws and usages of the turf, of a cool, clear head, and entirely disinterested in the result, would ever occupy the judges' stand. Those who were doubtful of their ability or integrity others doubted, would not be allowed to enter it. The men who sometimes gain access to the judges' stands are wholly incompetent, reckless, and sometimes worse. They do not comprehend the importance of the trust imposed upon them, and actually do not care. Such men are unfit for the responsibilities of the position, and should not be allowed to enter the stand, and never could under the one-judge system. The experiment is, at least, worthy of a trial, and we hope the clubs will take it into consideration. —*Spirit of the Times.*

GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE COURSE.

We have had many inquiries recently about the Grand National Steeplechase Course at Liverpool, and to accommodate the inquiries we have taken the following description from Land and Water of March 26, 1876, of this celebrated course, which has the merit of being both complete and accurate:

"Start to the right of the grand stand, and the first quarter of a mile is on the race-course, then across the road on to a piece of firm-going arable land for about 800 yards in extent to the first obstacle, a post and rails and big yawning ditch on the take-off side, the fence being a stiff bit of quickset hedge. This jump is about the most formidable of the course. All the natural fences have a bit of post and rails on the take-off side. Another short piece of plough, and the second fence is reached, of much the same character as the first, but not so difficult. About 200 yards more plough, and they reach an easy rail and hedge, then a good quarter-mile stretch of grass, and welcome to Valentine's Brook, a stiffish hedge, and a ditch on the landing side. A short bend by the railway on a piece of clover, and we reach the fifth obstacle, a thick bushy fence, without a ditch, and then about 200 yards of grass, ridge and furrow. The sixth fence is a stout quickset, with small ditch on the taking-off side, and then sweeping round on grass near the canal, the celebrated Becher's Brook is reached, but, like Valentine's, it is a brook in name. It is a good rasping jump.



STALLION Race

Canadian "Sporting Times" Stake

TO BE TROTTED IN

September, 1877

CONDITIONS.

\$40 each; \$20 forfeit, with \$250 added by the proprietors of the CANADIAN SPORTING TIMES, and a Gold Medal to the winning horse, Mile heats, 3 in 5, in harness. \$20 payable on the 1st of September. 60 per cent. of money to first horse, 25 to second, 15 to third. In case of a walk over, winner to receive his own entrance money and one-half of all the other entrance money received. Closed June 1, with the following

NOMINATIONS:

1—W. McMurray, Ingersoll, m h CAPT TOM, by McGregor's Warrior, by Royal George; dam by Volcano; second dam by Blackwood.

2—John Forbes, Woodstock, Ont., b h COMINATION, by Uccas Chief, by Fitch's Hambletonian, by Rysdyk's Hambletonian; dam by Long Island Black Hawk.

3—J. P. Wiser, Prescott, b h CHESTNUT HILL, by Rysdyk; dam the Miller mare, by Bully King, he by Geo. M. Patchen.

4—Simon James, Hamilton, g h WINFIELD SCOTT, by Edward Everett, by Rysdyk's Hambletonian; dam Lady Shannon, by Harris' Hambletonian.

5—Seth T. Bane, Chatham, ch h CHATHAM PLANET, by Young Stranger, he by Old Stranger, of Ohio; dam supposed to be by Royal George.

6—D. S. Booth, Ottawa, b h CAPT. WEBB, by Sunshine (thoroughbred), dam the Kennedy mare, by the Washburn Horse.

7—David Gillis, St Catherines, ch h FULTON, by old Tempest, dam the dam of Fred Hooper.

P. COLLINS, & CO.,
"Sporting Times"
Toronto, Ont.

302-11



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OTTAWA,
OLYMPIAN FOR THEIR FALL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 12, 13, 15, 1877.

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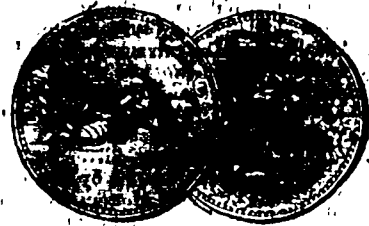
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