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TRACK COLLISION AND DAMAGES.

A case of no small interest to horsemen has recently been decided. John J. White and John Duryea each had a horse in a race at Brooklyn Park, June 5, 1877. Neither was very fast, and in concluding the first circuit of the mile track both were close on to two hundred yards behind the leader. Mr. White's mare was in front of Mr. Duryea's horse, and the latter, in attempting to go by her, came into collision with the sulky. Mr. White's driver was thrown out and his mare so badly frightened that it is alleged, she was rendered worthless for all purposes. Mr. Duryea's mare ran away, and injured herself that she was sold for a small sum. Mr. White brought suit against Duryea for damages, and Mr. Duryea put in a counter-claim for damages. The issues came on for trial before Judge Pratt, in the city of Brooklyn, May 17, 1878. Among the witnesses was Charles Dickerman, who testified that the mare used by Mr. White in the race was damaged to the extent of \$75. It was proved by the witnesses that Mr. White's mare was nervous, and showed a disposition to run away every time she was driven on the road after the 5, the day of the race. The plaintiff also introduced evidence to show that the injury was caused by the negligence of the defendant's driver. The witness of Mr. Duryea made plain the fact that there was room between the inner rail and Mr. White's sulky for the defendant's mare to pass, and that the collision was caused by the swerving of the plaintiff's mare at the critical moment of passing. For instance, John J. Jarvis, trainer and driver, swore: "Mr. White's mare made a break, and when she breaks she takes hold, that is, she takes hold, and a man has got to catch her right away if he wants to catch her at all. If he does not catch her then she takes more and more running, in which she loses; most all horses trot faster if they go without running; that is customary with all horses in trotting, and very few horses you can check by driving them straight; and Mr. White's mare that was driving (Mr. Thompson) when the mare broke, of course he was close to the fence, and he had to pull her to the right in order to catch her, or to the left, one or the other; and he pulled her to the right to catch her and then she ran to the left; when he cannot catch her on one rein she has got to catch her on the other; if a man handles a horse all the time he gets used to her, and he can soon form a system in catching her; and when he pulled the mare to the left Mr. Duryea's mare came up and his wheel caught the inside of Mr. White's wheel, which of course broad both sideways, bottom side up, which necessarily threw both drivers out. Mr. White's mare held on to his mare, but Mr. Duryea's mare ran away and ran up the track and was caught there." In his charge to the jury, Judge Pratt said: "When the law says that a party shall have compensatory damages in case of accidents through the negligence or fault of any party, it means precisely this: That under the peculiar circumstances of the case the party did some-

MR. BONNER'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

The announcement printed in the Turf, Field and Farm last week that Mr. Robert Bonner would make some public performance, with his horses next year was a pleasant surprise to tens of thousands. As Mr. Bonner has so many shining lights in his stable, which the people really want to see, it is not strange that the statement which he authorized last week should have caused a wave of attention to roll over the country. It is not Mr. B.'s purpose to make a violent departure. He has kept his horses exclusively for pleasure, never using one of them in a manner to bring him a dollar's recompense. His stable has cost him hundreds of thousands of dollars, and were he so disposed he could enter a campaign and sweep everything before him. But he is not so inclined. He is conscientiously opposed to trotting for money or a wager of any kind, and he will accept nothing for the exhibitions contemplated. As a matter of course, the managers of rival tracks will use all their art to persuade him to honor them, and we cherish the hope that he will strain a point to oblige as many of those belonging to the Grand Circuit as possible. That which would please Hartford would prove equally gratifying to Cleveland. There is another thing we should like to see done, and that is the re-introduction of Dexter to the public in connection with Edwin Forrest. The white-legged gelding which was king of trotters ten years ago is a well-preserved horse, and he has been in retirement so long that the people would cheer him to the echo were he simply led on the track in front of the grand stand. And what memories would come to him—how the eyes would flash with the excitement of the old days as the applause of the multitude struck upon his ear! Of all the names in Mr. Bonner's wonderful stable there is not one more potent, more idolized than that of Dexter.—Turf.

DEATH OF MAJOR J. G. WHYTE-MELVILLE.

(From the Sporting Gazette, Dec. 7.)
A thrill of sorrow ran through thousands of homes on Thursday when the sad news reached them that the gallant soldier, good sportsman, and able writer was no more. Who amongst us has not read his soul-stirring verses, and enjoyed the truthfulness with which the life amongst which he moved was portrayed in his novels? As a friend and relation of his once said to us, "Other novelists describe society as they fancy it is; Whyte-Melville describes it as he has seen it." And now many who had never seen the man will sorrow to think that his last lines have been penned and his wit shall charm them no more.
The cold touch of death overtook him in the pursuit he loved so well, and he may literally and truly be said to have died in harness; for he had met the Vale of White Horse Hounds at Biggleswade, his usual health and spirits, and with

better and few so well, no one was more modest as to his own achievements, or admitted the fact more frankly, generally with a laugh or jest at his own expense, on those rare occasions when he could not reach the end of a good run.

Major Whyte-Melville entered the army in 1832, becoming a captain in the Coldstream Guards in 1845, and he retired in 1849. The Crimean war, however, caused him once more to put on his harness, and he joined the cavalry of the Turkish contingent, and remained in the service until the close of the war in 1856.

His first novels, "Digby Grand" and "Tilbury No-go," at once established his reputation in the world of literature, where he held a position entirely his own, as the one man, and the only one, who could introduce sport and sportsmen into his work without making them ridiculous and displaying ignorance of the subject. "Market Harborough" and the sketches "Inside the Bar" are unrivalled in their way, as is the description of wild stag-hunting in "Katerfelto," and the character of Red Rube, the harborer, could have come from no pen but his own. "Satanella," again, has portraits of men, women, and horses that we all seem to recognize at once; but Whyte-Melville succeeded in a different style from any of these, as the "Gladiators" and "Sarchedon" testify, not to mention "Holmby House" and the "Queen's Maries."

His hunting songs stand so far alone that nothing in the language can be compared to them, and the verse is like the stride of a free-going thoroughbred by the side of a scrambling half-bred one when such an attempt is made. "The Lord of the Valley," "The Galloping Squire," "The King of the Kennel," "The Clipper that stands in the stall at the top," and "The Good Grey Mare," all stirring one's blood like the sound of a trumpet. In some of his other poetry there is, however, a vein of sadness which seems to tell us that the bold horseman and brave soldier owned a heart feeling and tender as that of a woman, and that the sorrows of "Hero" or "Griseida" roused its sympathies as truly as trumpet blast or note of hound. Alas! that it beats no more, for long will it be before we shall look upon his like again.

Veterinary.

ONTARIO VETERINARY COLLEGE.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association was held in the Museum of the Ontario Veterinary College on the 20th. There was a large attendance of members from all parts of the Province. In the address of Professor Smith, the President, he gave a description of his visit to Europe, and an account of the Veterinary Colleges of Great Britain and the Continent. He was most courteously received by the professors and leading veterinarians of the old world, which he acknowledged in warm terms. The most important business was the question of incorporation. It was finally re-

Fur, Fin and Leather.

THE FISH OF THE ST. LAWRENCE.

Mr. R. H. Kilby, President of the Fish and Game Protection Club of the Province of Quebec, has called attention to the following circular issued by his society, and which is to be presented to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries at Ottawa. The subject is an important one, and justly demands the attention of the Montreal society. It is to be hoped that interested game protective societies in the State of New York will take suitable action for seconding the Canadians in their efforts to preserve the young fish of the St. Lawrence. The petition reads as follows:—

MONTREAL, December, 1878.

To the Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries:

We, the undersigned, dealers, sportsmen, citizens, and members of the Fish and Game Protection Club of the Province of Quebec, having noticed that the food supply, in the form of black bass, dore and maskunonge, furnished by the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers, has year by year been diminishing in quantity at an alarming rate, and believing that if certain measures be at once instituted and scrupulously carried out the rivers alluded to will, in a few years' time, yield as much as they have done in the past, hereby respectfully submit our views, and pray that you will take them into your consideration:

1. To your petitioners proof does not seem wanting that the laws affecting the taking of these species of fish, at present on the Statute Book, are but little observed; the fish being caught at prohibited times, and, in some instances, kept alive in boxes or pounds to evade the laws until the season opens.

2. It appears to your petitioners that the most destructive practice of all is the capture of fish by means of nets during the spawning season in and contiguous to the entrance of certain small streams which may be termed breeding rivers; and should this practice be persisted in your petitioners feel convinced but one inevitable result will follow, viz: our large rivers will speedily and completely be depleted of the fish named.

Your petitioners would also humbly suggest that the following rivers be preserved as "breeding rivers" and absolutely closed against all netting, not only in the streams themselves, but within three-quarters of a mile of the entrance thereto, viz., the Chateauguay, Beaudette, Salmon River and North River; and, also that that such steps be taken to enforce the laws as will effectually put a stop to the netting of fish during the breeding season, in or near to the other tributaries of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers, notable among which are the River St. Louis, Riviere Rouge and the Rigaud.
That to enable your Department, as well as the members of the Club to have a more perfect

002,544 altogether. And to make the computation still more certain, a third count was made, which showed 71 eggs in the last division, or 9,806,112 in the whole ovaries. From these results Mr. Mather fixes the number of eggs in this particular eel at fully 9,000,000.

DEER.—A herd of twelve fine deer were discovered feeding in a field near Chesley, a few days ago.

TALL SHOOTING IN TEXAS.—Wm. Erwin, a few days ago, at Crow Creek, Texas, accomplished the feat of shooting dead in their tracks 101 Texas stags at 101 consecutive shots with a Winchester rifle, all for a bet of a box of cigars. The carcasses were made into Indian beef.

THE WIMPLEDON TEAM.—Col. Stuart, Secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association, writes as follows: "My attention having been called to the communication from your Ottawa correspondent in your issue of the 17th instant, giving the names of the Wimpleton Team for 1879. I am directed to state that although the names mentioned in that communication appear as those of the competitors making the 'twenty' highest scores in the various provinces, no official selection of the Team by the Council of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association has as yet been made."

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF TORONTO.—A special meeting of this Society was convened in Shattbury Hall on Monday evening, Mr. Henry Montgomery, M.A., Vice-President, in the chair. The reports of the Council and officers showed the Society to be in a thriving condition. The membership consists of twenty-eight ordinary members and one honorary member. During the year several donations have been made to the library, one by Prof. Croft of upwards of sixty rare and valuable volumes. The museum consists of more than two thousand species; and the Society has no liabilities. After the disposal of business, Mr. Wm. Brodie read a paper on *Pissodis strobis*, the white pine weevil, one of the few Canadian beetles the larvae of which feed on living wood. After remarking on the injury done to young pines in the vicinity of Toronto during last summer, it was held that this beetle is double-brooded, the first brood of larvae feeding in young pines—usually in the terminal shoots—and the second brood feeding under the bark of recently dead mature trees. It was also shown that the increase of *Pissodis strobis* is checked by ichneumonids by severe frosts, and by conditions generally prevailing in Ontario.

THE TROTTERING HORSE BREEDING