

CANADIAN.

Whitby.....May 24
Woodstock.....May 24
Kincardine.....May 24
Thurston (local).....May 24
Wingham.....May 24 to 26
Prescott.....July 2 to 3
Montreal, Lepine Park.....June 18 to 20
Exeter.....July 2 to 3
Hamilton.....July 2 to 4
Mt. Forest (local).....July 2
Mt. Forest.....Sept—

Correspondents and others will remember
The change of office No. 90 King St
West, Toronto, as our present address.

NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.

1. Any person or persons who takes a paper regularly from the Post Office, whether directed in his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not, is responsible for payment.
2. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrears, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and then collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.
3. The Courts have decided, that refusing to take newspapers or periodicals from the Post Office, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is *prima facie* evidence of intentional fraud.

THE POOL BILL.

ALL THERE BE A COMPROMISE?

The object of our legislative system is to do the greatest good to the greatest number, and foster and encourage everything which may be conducive to the benefit of the country. Last week we showed in a clear and lucid manner the benefit the pool-box had been in promoting a great national industry—horse-breeding—and this week, as will be seen from our Ottawa correspondent's letter, is shown the injury which is to be inflicted by the passage of the obnoxious bill which is now before the Dominion Legislature. The withdrawal of the Ottawa Association from the arena of turf sport, although the first, was not the last instance of the results of the Act. It will affect every club in Canada, large or small, if the provisions of the Bill should be enforced. The consequence will be a withdrawal of a large amount of money—direct premiums to the breeding and importation of fine equine stock.

No demand has been made by gentlemen interested in this industry—horse breeding—for the passage of the measure, and the reasons have not failed in from horsemen and turf clubs praying for its enactment. In New York State it has been shown the Pool-Bill was introduced in the Legislature for black-mailing purposes, and failing to compel the leading Associations to come down handsomely, the promoters of the measure

pool-selling has or is going to interfere with the purity of our elections it should certainly be abolished by all means in their behalf. But on a race track the case is different, and the same argument for its suppression will not apply. Again, if pool-selling in cities, towns and villages, in hotels or other places of public resort, is suggestive of a nuisance against public morals, by creating disturbance, in these instances it should be brought under the ban of the law. But here again the race course does not present a parallel. There is and has been nothing advanced why pool-selling should be repressed on race courses, or at the scene of any sporting event. It will be readily admitted, in such events men will wager their money, and when this must be permitted, it indeed looks like severe discrimination when any one system should be ostracised. It may be expedient that pool-selling should be suppressed as above advanced, in certain places, in the interests of order and political morals, but such a claim would not be tenable when applied to the locality of any exciting sporting event.

There are very few sections in America where racing is carried on to any great extent. It is almost unknown west of the Mississippi river until the Pacific slope is reached, and Kentucky, Ohio, and New York States, and Ontario monopolise the larger share of it on this side of the Father of the Waters. Assuming the pool bill to become law in New York, and that its provisions are enforced, which is very doubtful, Canada would then become the great northern rendezvous of the thoroughbred. Great as our horse industry at present enters into the economy of our country it would then become immeasurably increased, and in a few years would not occupy a secondary place to the most valuable of our productive and remunerative resources. As Col. Sellers in the Gilded Age, remarks "There's millions in it," only his picture is painted with the most evanescent pigments, while ours is indelibly marked with the highest colors. This is not a question to be treated on its *prima facie* appearance, look at the consequence of such legislation, and figure up the profit and loss account in detail. The moralists' ideas are foreign to the subject, and are but the shadows thrown by the puritan calcim, which impede a full and correct view of what should be a pleasing picture. We know there is a strong prejudice against anything in the shape of gambling, but speculation on equine contests occupies a much higher position, and should not be classed in the same category as betting on the turn of a card, or the destination of an ivory ball in a roulette. The element of chance is to a great extent absent, and practical valuable knowledge and calculation is necessary to be successful.

For all the purposes of good government, and at the same time protecting and fostering our equine industry, it should certainly be deemed sufficient that the Pool and Betting bill should be amended so as to allow pool-selling on race courses and at the scene of any sporting event, while its prohibition in cities, towns, villages, and hotels and other public places would meet the demands of our moralists, who have been offended by being unavoidably brought in contact with it. In this way the legislation might be made to suit all parties—without offending any—and

sketch of the deceased gentleman's life:—

Major C. W. Barker was born in Connecticut in 1824, and was consequently in his fifty-third year. In 1847 he removed to Rochester, N.Y., where he was engaged as traveling agent for an Eastern firm of piano manufacturers. In 1851 when the Veteran Dragoons were organized he was appointed First Lieutenant of the company. In 1857 he removed to Chicago, in which city for some years he conducted the Cleveland House. While there he organized a troop of dragoons, which he commanded. On the breaking out of the war he was in command of a company known as the McClellan Body Guard, and served all through General McClellan's campaigns, holding the rank of Major in the service. After the retirement of McClellan he came back to Rochester and settled on a farm he owned in Irondequoit, being elected Justice of the Peace of that town. Subsequent to this time he was appointed agent of the Erie road and opened the present office on State Street, Rochester. After that he went into the horse business and removed to New York where he opened the auction mart on the corner of Thirty-ninth street and Broadway. During his residence in Rochester he was commandant of the Andrew Jackson Association. For many years past Major Barker has had a widespread reputation among horsemen, and his well-known features were observable in the pool stands of the great Circuit, and his rectitude and fair dealing were such as to make his word as good as his bond. His auction mart in New York has been a most successful undertaking. He leaves behind him a wife and one son, Charles, who was a partner in the business.

A CONTRAST.

During the past few years, there are very few States in the American Union that have made so much progress in the horse breeding interest as Michigan. The trotting class there has been highly cultivated, and the result is shown in the remarkable success of some of the Wolverine stock. This high position has been arrived at notwithstanding the State law in many cases operated prejudicially to the development of the industry. At present there are bills before the Legislature legalizing speed premiums and annulling existing penalties as to racing. There is also another bill being legislated on creating a lien on the the colt in favor of the owner of the stallion for the service of the horse, a measure much required in this country. In Canada there is an apparent tendency in headquarters to do all in their power, under the semblance of making our people moral by Act of Parliament, to throw obstacles in the way of nurturing what should be a national industry. In Michigan it would appear the legislators are acquainted with the subjects in question, while our Solons are so politically blind that their vision does not extend beyond the party horizon; and their prejudice on one side and their total ignorance on the other lead them to rush blindly on, at the whim of some oleaginous-tongued Ananias, and destroy an industry whose value to the country may be represented by millions.

RACING CALENDAR—The Turf, Field and Farm Racing Calendar for 1877 is now in active preparation for the press, and will be issued in a week or two, in pocket form. It will contain a full synopsis of flat and hurdle races and steeplechases for the year 1876, together with winning tables, earnings of stallions, tables of fastest time at different distances, entries for all the stakes of 1877 and 1878, list of thoroughbred foals of 1876, &c., with copious index to entire work. As only a limited edition will be published for the use of subscribers, parties desirous of securing a copy should send in their name and address to that office without delay.

with which nobody is disposed to quarrel, it proceeds with the following suggestions, the italics being our own:

"We would suggest that pool selling at races be prohibited, and any sort of betting on elections restrained in every practicable way. We would not include, under ordinary pool-selling, the use of the Paris pools, for it may be argued that they are a comparatively innocent form of wagering, and perfectly free of the objections which exist against auction pools. They cannot be worked for the purpose of robbery, and as another correspondent points out their mechanical accuracy insures fair play, while the limit of the ticket, \$5, prevents the chance of inordinate gambling. We fear that advice through the channel of *The Mail* will not weigh for much with the Minister of Justice, but possibly those who have been more brought in contact than that learned gentleman with the frauds and rascalities which he is so rightly anxious to suppress, would think it sufficient by an Act of this season to abolish pool-selling, properly so called, and leave it to the experience of the coming season to decide whether further legislation be necessary. Whenever occasion arises we feel sure he may count on the support of every sportsman in Canada; for there is nothing more absurd than the notion that sport and gambling are too closely interwoven to be separated. And while sport is a thing to be encouraged by all sensible people who would see a healthy feeling pervade the rising generation, gambling—as distinct from an innocent wager—is a vice utterly abhorrent to a very large proportion of the sporting community."

BREEDERS' MEETING.

A few weeks ago we intimated that negotiations were in progress, having for their object a meeting of the horse breeders of Canada, to be held in this city at an early day. At the gathering it is proposed to discuss the various matters which may be properly brought within the province of an assembly of this nature. The time of the meeting can be very profitably occupied in debating the questions of racing, sweepstakes, and breeding, the latter being coupled with the subject of pedigree; and much information will doubtless be gained on the exportation traffic in horses, the permanency of the demand, the class of horses required for the old country market, the best modes of shipment, and the probable result of the trade. Col. D. E. Boulton, of Cobourg, has consented to take the chair, and the time selected has been the evening of the 24th inst., the first day of Grand's big sale, at some place not yet designated. We expect to see a large attendance of those interested, and trust one of the results will be the formation of a permanent Canadian Jockey Club, which in all probability will be composed of gentlemen who have not been intimately connected with the sports of the turf for the past few years.

FROM KINGSTON,

KINGSTON, April 9, '77.

To the Editor of Sporting Times:

DEAR SIR—Mr. Jno. Carson has been induced by the beautiful weather of the last few days to give his fine black mare Lena a good airing. He evidently means to keep her in good trim for the races, and she will no doubt prove a good rival to some of your Western trotters.

Mr. Cunningham has just completed a fine yacht of five tons burden, for some Montreal gentleman.

Yours, K.

A large portion of the American sporting press describe pool-selling as the hand-maid of racing.

Mr. G. W. Moore (only) of Moore and Burgess Minstrels, London, Eng., for \$1,000. Salvini is the well-known grey pacing horse Billy Hopper, formerly owned by Mr. Jamieson, Erie Street, Buffalo, N. Y. He is described as the fastest trotting horse in England. They apparently place trotters and pacers in the same class there.

Every dollar of money hung up at our race meetings is a premium for the importation and breeding of fine stock. If this incentive is withdrawn will not the production naturally cease?

Mr. H. Carr, of West Gwilliambury, owns a two-year-old stallion that kicks the beam at 1,570 lbs.

Mr. J. G. Hicks intends giving races on the new Driving Park at Mitchell, Ont., on the 24th May. Next!

Mr. Wash. Higgins, of Rochester, N.Y., who owned Albemarle when he trotted his notorious race at Buffalo, N.Y., has lately purchased the stallion Marker, by Volunteer, from Mr. Skeels, of Coldwater, Mich.

Mr. W. E. Owens and Mr. Sam Defries, of this city, the owners of the Dominion-bred Hurricane and Islander, respectively, regret the loss of an exercising boy each, by being spirited away by a trainer for a Western rural stable. There is a Morgan mystery about the affair, and although it looks black enough now the ending will probably be white.

Mr. Thos. Vance, of East Zorra, has sold his stallion General Bismarck to Joseph Rich, of Henry County, Iowa, for \$1,050.

The sentiments of the press, so far as has been expressed, are decidedly unfavorable to Mr. Blake's Betting and Pool Bill. Its stringency it is thought will defeat the object of its introducer, by rendering the bill inoperative.

Mr. Harry Buchner, of Port Colborne, has recently purchased the trotting mare Henrietta as a mate to his mare Flora. They are said to be the fastest team in the country.

It should be satisfactory evidence of the falsity of the position held by those who assume that the suppression of pool-selling and betting will be better for the turf, to learn that several associations have decided not to give meetings if the Pool Bill is carried, and those who will enter the list will reduce their premiums materially.

The Toronto World, in speaking of the Sporting Times Derby Sweepstake, says "the drawer of the first horse will reap a big bonanza, and all who invest a V may rely that the originator of the drawing will perform his part of the programme satisfactory to all concerned."

Messrs. Watt & Patterson, of Guelph, expect to leave for England on the 19th with three car loads of horses.

O'Leary defeated Weston in his great six days' walk in London, Eng., for \$1,000, by 22 miles. No particulars have been received.

Mr. T. J. Chubb, of Guelph, lately purchased from Mr. J. O. Aikens, of Walpole, the 4-year old chestnut stallion Abdallah Chief, by Caledonia Chief, dam Maggie by Abdallah. The consideration was \$1,000. Mr. Chubb also purchased from Mr. Aikens a 2-year-old filly, by Caledonia Chief, for \$200.

It is said the scene of Owen Cutler's usefulness will be transferred from Montreal to the County of Oxford, Ont. He is by Leamington.

From all parts of the country we have advices of clubs being made up for our Derby Sweep. Already a large number of applications have been received, and those who wish to participate should not hold back too long or they may be disappointed. In almost every locality a club of \$25, \$50, or \$100 might be formed.

Our imp wanted to know the other day why a man who did not bet was as bad as a pool-buyer? Because he is no better. That's not so bad as being a no-payer.