

TROTTING: TRAINER'S EXPERIENCE WITH TOE-WEIGHTS.

BY SETH T. BARK, CHATHAM, ONT.

(From the Spirit of the Times.)

When I remember what I saw this man do, it seems to be a wonder to me how it now is that a trotting gait, is now used as a pacer, and it was that toe-weights ceased to cause him trot. So long as this class of trainers are allowed to monkey with trotters and toe-weights, results are likely to be produced. As all owners don't possess the proper kind of eyes to separate the good from the bad, it is expected that they will sometimes get the off blown into their eyes. Horse owners can all be practical horse trainers, and, looking at them as a body, they resemble a jury without edge, and, like the same, may, in ordinary cases, render a proper verdict, but, in more difficult cases, may go wrong, for want of a critical judgment to assist them in arriving at correct conclusion. This state of affairs is at causes owners to change drivers so much. Whenever owners' horses don't come up to expectations in their performances, they usually conclude there must be something wrong in the trainers, and the consequence is a change of trainers. Should some old-be trainer happen to approach an owner at this critical time, that has been recently called into prominence by the speed of some well-bred trotter, he is liable to get a situation, frequently, in this way, a good trainer loses a situation, and the owner gets a monkey to his place.

It requires more judgment to use toe-weights on educate trotters than it does to sit behind them after they are made.

Franklin captured the electrical horse, But to harness him it required the immortal Morse; Boys to-day guide him well at lightning speed, But he is now a well-trained steed.

If horse owners would remember that it is a waste of time to look for milk in a gate, or blood in a turnip, or since in a fool, they would always employ trainers of good judgment and experience, and those of good and industrious habits, they would get chaff and more wheat. While I am on this point, I would say to young men who are ambitious to become trainers of the trotting horse: "Don't commence it, expecting that it will be an easy task before you. Cultivate your brain, and let your cheek alone; it will be up of itself. Get all the knowledge you can from experienced trainers, either verbally written; acquaint yourself, as much as possible, with the anatomy and physiology of the horse; study pathology, that you may know your horse is about the structure of the horse. You can't be idle or fool your time away card playing, or any other foolish games, and become well acquainted with your business. Make yourself acquainted with as many of the recent sciences as you can carry, for knowledge is power, and power will cause speed when properly applied."

Toe and side weights possess great advantages over heavy shoes when used on horses that injure their hind legs by brushing them against the front seat. A horse that scalps the coronet produces the injury by striking the said part just the inferior, i.e., ground surface, at or near the toe of the front shoe, when, in the act of passing under it; horses that injure themselves in this way are generally those that are not close gaited. Some horses cut themselves on the inside of the hind fetlock joint, when trotting, a little in front, but near the place where a horse commonly injures himself when walking by interfering. A horse that injures when walking produces the injury by striking the inside toe of the opposite foot just the part that is injured. But when a horse cuts the fetlock joint in trotting fast, the injury is produced by said joint coming in contact with the front foot, or shoe on the same. When the off hind fetlock joint is cut, the injury is produced by said joint coming in contact

edge is formed on it; that sharp edge is located at that point that commonly comes into contact with the hind legs when in the act of passing. A creased shoe should never be used on a horse that brushes his hind legs against the front shoes; in fact, a shoe that has creases made into it by means of a counter sink, for the reception of the nail heads, is the best for any kind of a horse. It will wear longer than a creased shoe, which is quite an object. Shoeing smiths don't like, as a general thing, to make this kind of a shoe, because it is not fashionable; it also requires a little more time to punch it and get the nail holes regular than it does to punch a creased shoe. The crease is a guide for the smith to punch by, and some of them require considerable guiding to get them to punch a shoe properly.

Coronet, shin, and fetlock boots, when well made, aid the trainer very much in protecting these parts from injury, and, in many cases, may be indispensable. They are used on many horses that could do without them, if they were properly shod. Trotting horse trainers, as a general thing, depend too much on boots, and know too little about shoeing. Boots, when applied to any part of the horse's legs, are cumbersome, and frequently produce injurious results by chafing, or by hindering the circulation, or by interfering with the natural motions of the joints. They should be used as little as the circumstances will admit of. So long as the majority of horseshoers remain as they now are, the theorists and trainers continue to wear kid gloves and morocco-top boots, boot-makers are liable to have plenty to do, and horses that might go free will be burdened with boots.

Horseshoers, as a class, I think know less about their profession than any other class of mechanics. Under present circumstances, it is my opinion that it is to their interest to remain in this condition: to them ignorance is bliss, and when a man is happy, who can blame him for not being willing to give away the source of his happiness?

The great cause of horseshoers being ignorant of their profession rests with horse owners. As a general thing they are not willing to pay a living price for good work when they can get it, but prefer to go to the man that will do it the cheapest. If a shoeing smith spends half a day shoeing a trotter for them, and charges them more for it than he does for shoeing one of their draught horses, that he could have shod in one-half the time, they grumble.

Having been in the training business for a number of years, I have had many opportunities to verify this conclusion. I have found many horse owners that were unwilling to pay more than \$1.50 for shoeing a trotting horse all around, merely because that was the customary price paid in his locality for common shoeing. A shoeing smith might make a living at shoeing farm horses at this price, and at the same time do passable work, but would be likely to starve at thus shoeing trotting horses, if he did his work as it should be done. When horse owners learn that it is their interest to be liberal with their shoeing smiths, pay them for the quality of work they do, and the amount of time they spend at it, and do not regulate the price by the number of shoes, we are likely to have a better class of horseshoers. Owners of fast horses are generally liberal men, and usually spend much money in buying fine clothing for their horses. Much of this they would be better off without, in many cases, for it is frequently used by their trainers unnecessarily, and bad results are the consequence, while often it is only used for display. A hidden foundation does not add to the beauty of a fine building, yet it is the most important part of the building, and unless it is properly and securely formed, the building will soon become racked, and tumble down.

(To be continued.)

BETTING ON ENGLISH RACE TRACKS.

THE INNER AND OUTER BETTING RINGS—THE FIELD BETTING—WELCHER'S—PECULIARITIES OF THE ENGLISH SYSTEM—THE POOL BILL IN NEW YORK STATE—EFFECTS OF ITS PASSAGE.

The passage of the Pool Bill, and its signature by the Governor, gives effect to it as a law on the 15th of last month. This law prevents pool selling of every description in the

ing Monday, which is always an "off" day in racing circles in England. Professional betting men who occupy the outer ring are often members of Tattersall's, and, at the same time, do ready money betting, taking the money offered them on bets just before a race, and settling at once after the race has been decided. These men generally give tickets numbered in rotation, making it convenient to strangers, who can thus settle without the trouble of going to Tattersall's for the purpose. Almost all these men have something to distinguish them by, generally a bag slung by a strap from the shoulders, with the name and address of their firm stamped conspicuously thereon in gilt letters. In this bag they carry tickets and money, and all have clerks to assist them.

Swindlers often prepare themselves in the same way, and, changing their name and address, move, after every race, to another part of the course, and commence anew. The betting men in the open fields are more numerous, and make themselves conspicuous by peculiarity of dress, many of them looking like clowns, as they wear hats and clothes of all the colors of the rainbow. These men generally have a slip of paper pinned on their coats giving the state of the odds. There are many of these professionals as honest as their more aristocratic brethren of the inner ring, and they are ready to accept bets from a shilling to £5 or £10. Dealing with a class of bettors who are not accustomed to any nonsense they are always prepared to settle at once after a race. This field betting is on the "first horse passing the post," short weight, or any other contingency which may arise, and give the race to another horse, not counting with this class of bettors. As soon as the leading horse passes the winning post, his number is immediately, in fact instantly, run up, and this decides the field betting. The betting of the inner and outer ring, of course, abides the decision of the judges.

At all race meetings in England there is a class of pests who go by the name of Welchers; they are very numerous, and, proclaiming themselves betting men, accept any and all bets offered them, which, if lost, they do not pay. The discovery of one of them in the inner or outer betting ring would be followed by his instant expulsion on the double quick. These cheats carry on their dishonest trade outside, in the fields, and practice their nefarious tricks on countrymen and greenhorns. It frequently happens that these rogues get caught in the act of cheating, and coming in contact with superior force, they get lashed around unmercifully, their clothes are torn from their backs, and they are pitched unceremoniously into a horse pond, narrowly escaping with their wretched lives. As soon as the numbers of the contesting horses are run up before a race, the book-makers break out loudly, shouting the odds and state of the betting market at the top of their voices, and make a horrible din. The larger part of the people who attend races in England, although belonging to the lower orders, are generally well behaved, and seeing so much racing are good judges, and quickly detect any "pulling" in a race, greeting the "puller" with sods, stones, and shouts of derision, be he lord and amateur rider or a professional jockey. If, on the contrary, a race is well ridden, bringing out strong points of horse and rider, the winner receives a great ovation, cheers and bravos ringing all over the course. In clearing the track for a race the police have little trouble. As soon as the bell rings the people disperse, all wishing to see sport, and cheerfully giving way for the race to proceed. When a hurdle or steeplechase is to be run, the horses engaged are allowed a preparatory jump, and it is always taken advantage of, and all the horses have a crack at the hurdle prepared for the purpose. Racing cards and pencils are sold together, and the cry of "Who wants fourpennys' worth of card and pencil" is almost continuous.

—Spirit of the Times.

SMILER'S HEALTH LIFT.

Dr. Smiler, says Max Adler, had a large tank placed on the top of his house from which to supply his bathroom, and so forth with water. The water had to be pumped up about fifty feet from the cistern in the yard, and the doctor found it to be pretty good-sized job, which would cause him constant expense. So after thinking the matter over very carefully, one day an idea struck him. He built a room over the cistern and put word "Santarium" over the door. Then he concealed the pump machinery beneath the floor, and he rigged up a kind of complicated apparatus with handles and hinges and a crank, so that a man by standing in the middle of the machine and pulling the handle up and down would operate that pump.

Then the doctor got out circulars and published advertisements about "Smiler's Patent Health Lift," and he secured testimonials from a thousand or so people who agreed that the health lift was the only hope for the physical salvation of the human race. Pretty soon people began to see about it, and Smiler would rush them out to the "Santarium" and set them to jerking the handles. And when a customer had pumped up fifty gallons or so, Smiler would charge him a quarter, and tell him that three months of that kind of thing would give muscles like a prize-fighter.

The thing became so popular that he had to enlarge his tank and put in a smaller pump; and he not only got all his pumping done for nothing, but the people who did it paid him about \$1,500 a year for the privilege.

One day, however, Mr. Magnus, who had been practising at the health lift every day for months, broke the board upon which he was standing, and plunged into the cistern, and just as he was sinking for the third time Smiler fished him out with a crooked nail in the end of a clothes-prop.

A few days later Magnus came round with a lot of other patients, and cross-examined Smiler's servant girl, and learned about the truth, and then they went home mad. A consultation was held, at which they resolved to prosecute Smiler for damages and for obtaining money under false pretences. It is thought by good judges that, by the time the court gets through with Smiler, it will be about the unhealthiest life for him he was ever interested in.—Scientific American.

A FAST POLE TEAM.

At the Bay District Course, San Francisco, Cal., a remarkable pole-team performance occurred a short time since. A pair of roadsters, Gen. Cobb and Ellen McCord, owned by Mr. Chas. Crocker, of that city, trotted, to a road wagon, a mile in 2:29. The wagon weighed 196 lbs, and the driver 148 lbs. In order to understand how good this is, the chief mile ever trotted to a road wagon was on the Fashion Course, Long Island, in 1876, when Bruno and Brunette trotted the mile in 2:25. There was a great strife at that time to slow the fastest team, and this Mr. Harker's were trained carefully for the express purpose of beating the time of Lady Palmer and Flatbush Maid, driven by Mr. Robt. Bonner in 2:26. The best technical "record," however, is the mile of Jessa Wales and Darkness, to a skeleton wagon, on Narragansett Park, in 1870, in 2:27. The San Francisco pair have only been worked a short time together, and they give strong indications that they will surpass the feats, great as are already performed. Both are by Niagara, formerly Washtenaw Chief, the sire of the Stark mare and other good ones. There are strong proofs that Niagara was by Mainbrino Chief. Another great performance to a road wagon on the same course was that made by Monarch, being a mile in 2:30, his driver weighing 190 lbs. Monarch

bay tree and never missed a meal. After three weeks a plaster of Paris bandage took the place of the splints and other wraps, and in seven weeks the doctor had N. the walking around the stable. Yesterday a reporter of the Herald saw the mare in a lot at the farm, driving her companion, a cow, from a pile of feed. There was no bandage on the broken limb and no sign of a fracture, but a slight enlargement at the joint was decreasing every day. The mare's gait was the same length as before, and N. the favorite but little while frolicking about the farm. Mr. Williams intends to turn her out at a short time in the country with her foal, Clarence and has every reason to believe that he will be able to drive her to carriage in the fall as usual. Before the accident she showed a 2:40 gait, and no believe we can do as well as that when she comes back, and we hope we will not be disappointed. Mr. Williams' Nello covers the use of a broken limb, as there is every reason to believe she will, many other valuable fast pet horses may be saved in the same manner by skillful and careful treatment. The experiment made by Mr. Williams is worth of trial by others, and we shall be glad to hear the result.—Utica Herald.

POOL SELLING.—A PETITION.

The following is the complete text of the petition of the horse breeders of Kentucky to the Governor of New York praying him to withhold his signature from the pool bill that State:—

To His Excellency, Lucius Robinson, Governor of the State of New York.

The undersigned breeders and turfmen of Kentucky and the southwest, ask your Excellency not to sign or give your legal approval to the Pool Bill which recently passed the two houses of the General Assembly of New York. While we are opposed to pool selling in races, trots and elections in towns and cities, we feel confident that its abolition on the tracks of regularly organized associations will be highly detrimental to the breeding interests of the country, without at all preventing men from betting on races. In fact it is wholly dependent on subscription, private enterprise, and the revenue derived from pools, and not a whit upon aid from the State or General Government as in Europe, and it is by the means of the pool selling that the great interests of the turf are maintained. The moment the pools are abolished on the regular tracks by law, the value of prices of thoroughbreds and trotters will decrease one half, and this will prove an incalculable damage to the breeding of the turf horse, the chief source from which our stock must be derived.

We cannot conceive or believe that the evils of pool selling on the tracks of the country is greater than the importance of the improvement of this species of livestock. Betting cannot be suppressed. No power, not even that of an absolute government, can effect such a result. Why, then, sacrifice an immense material interest in what the present and future generations are so largely involved, for the sake of a false sense of morality—false because wholly impracticable. If you approve the bill by your signature you will not lessen the amounts of money that will be hazarded on the turf, but you will take from the Associations their chief means of giving their premiums, and thereby damage immeasurably the breeding interest of the country.

POOL SELLING.

H. P. McGrath, in an interview with a correspondent of the Cincinnati Daily Enquirer, thinks the New York law prohibiting pool selling on races will have a "bad effect." He says, "People go to the race track and