

the breeze, the birch bark simply flew. We covered the six miles intervening between Haileybury and Windy Point in three quarters of an hour, by the watch; but really we were entitled to no credit for so doing, because after we got fairly started the only chance was to crack on sail, and keep ahead of those whitecaps that always seemed to hang close to the quarter of the little canoe. As it was, two of them caught us, and lapping over the low gunwale converted the bottom of the canoe into a hip bath, in which I sat more or less unhappily. Windy Point served as a breakwater, and after that the voyage was not remarkable for excitement. We reached North Temiskaming during the morning, and there Angus Wabie introduced me to his brother John, who he said was a good man and anxious to enter my service. John and I lived together in the bush for three weeks, and I am willing to certify that Angus did not overstate the case; for John is a good man, and you will go a long way before you find a better. He can hunt like an Indian, cook like a woman, and never gets cross or sulky. More to oblige John than anything else, I consented to take his fifteen year old boy to assist in keeping camp, paddling, portaging and the other things which have to be done when you are travelling in the bush. Bernabie was a bright lad enough and proved useful; where he especially shone was on the portage. This Indian boy, whose weight did not exceed 100 lbs., could carry a load of 75 lbs. over a portage of half a mile, and it was evidently his ambition to inure himself to the hard work of portaging as early as possible. His father told me, on more than one occasion, that the boy begged to have something added to his load, as he wished to become good at carrying.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

HUNT STEEPLECHASES.

By C. J. Alloway.

The two great events of the sporting year, the fall steeplechases of the Canadian and Montreal Hunt Clubs, took place on September 28th and October 5th respectively. In no year of their previous history have the conditions been more favorable and satisfactory. Both places of meeting were within easy access of the city, which made it possible for greater numbers than usual to patronize the events. Not only were there large numbers of the members' friends and general public present, but all the morning the roads were dotted with vehicles from the farming district adjacent, heading for the scene of the races.

Passing along with them, in the utmost good-fellowship, rumbled the stately four-in-hands, without which would be lacking one of the most attractive features of the day. Jaunty little carts drawn by shining cobs, victorias, stanhopes, pony carriages and every vehicle, from the correctly-appointed equipage of the private citizen, to the well-polished harness and hack of the cabman, delighted that for him profit and pleasure could be so happily combined,

Pedestrians, who thought the miles to be traversed on foot well covered with such a goal in view, were prominent for their numbers. There was also in evidence the usual complement of the ubiquitous and enterprising small boy, whose knowledge of loose spots in the fences and gaps in the walls was exceedingly useful on the occasion.

The exceptionally beautiful weather allowed of one feature which is always expected, that is the handsome costumes of the ladies, whose dark furs and rich attire they well know appear nowhere to better advantage than on a stylish drag with a background of the blue skies and crimsoning woods of our Canadian autumn.

Although a commodious grand stand is usually a convenience, it cannot be denied that it has a certain business-like and circus appearance that offends the artist eye. There being no such accommodation on these occasions, the whole environment was suggestive of a rural holiday, and gave to those not familiar with a hunting scene a pleasing sense of its atmosphere, only the absence of the hounds among the riders in "Pink" giving evidence that it was not a "meet" that was in progress.

The Canadian Hunt held their meeting at St. Lambert, over a level, farming country, containing jumps of a varied character, which included stone walls, post-and-rail fences, sod banks and ditches to the number of eight in the circuit, which was a trifle over a mile in length. The day was a perfect one, and the lovers of this kind of sport were there to the number of at least five thousand. Not for many years has so large and appreciative a gathering been seen at a Hunt meeting. There were six events on the card, every one of which was hotly contested.

The first race on the programme was the Polo race for ponies, which was won by Dr. Mignault's "55," Pinto second, and Dewey third.

The second race was the Green Steeplechase, won by Due, owned by Dr. Gauthier, M.F.H. The rest of the field went the wrong course and were disqualified.

The Open race was won by King Top, Wild Arab second, and King Bolt third.

The Farmer's race, which was the most interesting event of the day and which caused great amusement, was won by Emile Brosseau, Louis Gravelle second, and W. St. Marie third.

The Hunt Cup, for qualified hunters, was won by Mr. Decarie on Wexford, Mr. Sutor's Squire second, and Mr. Tancred Trudel's Sir W. third.

The Consolation race was won by Sleepy Belle.

A week later, October 5th, under equally auspicious conditions of weather and patronage, occurred the Montreal Hunt Steeplechases, held at Petite Cote, which began at the unusually early hour of half-past twelve. Luncheon was served between the first and second races, which was somewhat of an innovation to the customary procedure.

The first race on the list was the Hunter's Handicap Steeplechase, and was won by Jim Lisle, ridden by Mr. Murray Hendrie.

The second was the Farmer's race, won by King Top, also ridden by Mr. Murray Hendrie.

Race number three was the Jorrocks' Steeplechase, for members up in "Pink."

This race was won by Mr. A.E. Ogilvie on his mare Maggie May.

The fourth event was the Open Handicap Steeplechase, won by Mr. Penniston's Burnap.

The one following was the Hunt Cup, to be ridden by members, and was won by Mr. Watson's Round View, ridden by Mr. Murray Hendrie, Dr. Charles McEachran's Pal second.

The sixth and last race was the Qualified Hunter's Steeplechase, which was won by Sleepy Belle.

The enthusiasm and interest evinced in the entire programme on both these occasions were a proof of the popularity of the methods employed in the conduct of the Hunt races this year, and their continuance on similar lines will probably characterize meetings in the future, as there are a large number in the city and its environs who enjoy this kind of sport. The popular taste is generally an excellent guide as to the wisdom of such measures.