

BLAKE'S POOL-SELLING BILL AND ITS EFFECTS ON OUR HORSE TRADE.

(Athletic and Sporting News.)
A correspondent writing to the CANADIAN GENTLEMANS JOURNAL previous to the election, says:
"We are now seeing the effect of Mr. Blake's pool-selling bill—all racing pretty nearly played out in Canada. This must tell seriously, ere long, on the class of horses in this country, and just now, when a good business might be done with England in horses, every effort ought to be made by the Government to encourage the importation of good ones, unless we want to see our trade go into the hands of the United States. All racing men ought to combine and oppose the Reform Government, and to vote for such a stupid bill."

Now that we have obtained the long-wished-for change in the Government and have managed to get the right men in the right place, we hope to see the above correspondent's wish gratified and this stupid bill abolished. We certainly think our Government ought to do everything in their power to encourage our horse and cattle breeders, more especially the former, to improve and develop their stock, even if it does involve a little pool-selling and betting, which is inseparable from horse-racing, rather than to without the encouragement that these meetings give, in the keen competition there would always be to produce the best animals. The English Government gives yearly large sums of money in purses to all the great race meetings held there, with a view of encouraging the improvement of stock, while Canada, with all the grand facilities she has for raising the finest stock the world can produce, is fast letting this important branch of commerce slip through her fingers for want of proper encouragement from the right quarters, while our American cousin is grabbing at it with his usual sharpness and avidity, and by the tremendous strides he is making each year is fast leaving poor Canada without the ghost of a chance to compete with him.

There is now a large and increasing demand in England for trotting horses, and this branch of trade can only be preserved to Canada by giving our breeders every inducement to improve stock. Canadian horses have always met with good sales in the English market, and there is no reason why we should not supply this demand; but so long as our Government pursues the stupid policy it has at present adopted, we fear Uncle Sam, and not us, will profit by this most lucrative branch of commerce, which yearly increases in importance and magnitude. To be sure our rulers do a little by voting each year sums of money to goody-goody exhibitions, which are always very tame affairs in Canada, and where our cattle and horses are brought and boxed up in paddocks or stalls, with no possible way of testing their respective merits. Here the judges walk round, and after viewing them, award what they consider they best animal first prize, of say twenty or thirty dollars,—(immense encouragement this is to breeders!)—frequently, we are assured, giving it to the wrong horse, as it is not always the best with the most symmetrical proportions, or who looks best in a stall or trotting up and down a grass paddock at a seven-minute gait, that is the best animal. Take Bramble, the winner of the great American stallion stakes, as an example, (of whom we have had a photograph sent us.) In our opinion, he is an ugly beast, and the New York Spirit of the Times says: "He is not an attractive horse in appearance, showing no blood, short in back, and with anything but a stylish gait."

Now, here is one of the best horses in the States, and yet, had he been viewed by our judges in a stall or paddock, it is doubtful if he would have attracted attention, except for his unsymmetrical proportions.

Now, we would respectfully suggest to our Government that, instead of giving this money to these penny shows, give it in purses, and have in every county in Canada at least one race or meeting each season. Exhibitions are all very well, and, we think, first-class arrangements for fat hogs, dairy and farm produce; but it is simply throwing away money and treating our horse-breeders unjustly to think for a moment that any ten or twelve men no matter how earnest they may be in horse flesh, can pick

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To start from the crack of a pistol. A man getting over his mark before the pistol is fired will be put back one yard, for the second offence two yards, and for the third offence will be disqualified. Any man entering under a false name or residence will be disqualified. Unknown men will have to be identified to the satisfaction of the Committee. To be run in squads; the winners of squads to run in final heats on Saturday. All communications to the Secretary, SPORTING TIMES office, Toronto.

37-a-11. P. COLLINS, Sec'y.

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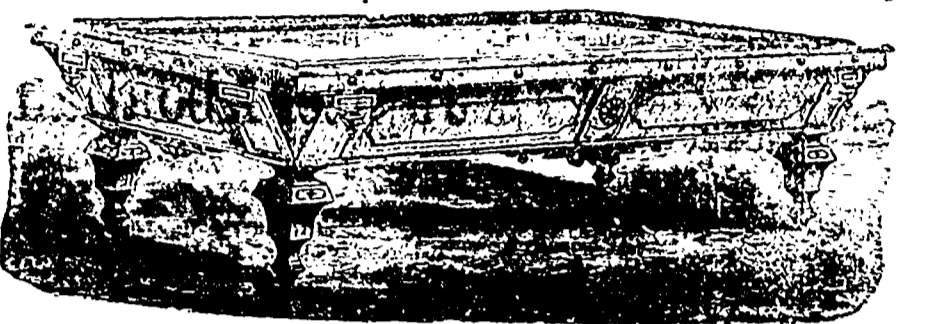
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