

BOOK BETTING.

There is no denying the fact that book betting, under the system adopted in this country, has not met the demands of the public. It seems, at first glance, that it is strange that books should be so popular in England, France, and in every other country where the turf exists, while with us it can hardly get a foothold. In England and France the system of investing money by pools was as unpopular as books are with us. It died a natural death, for the want of public patronage, while with us book-making seems to be destined to reach the same fate.

Of course, there must be some cause for this state of affairs, or it would not be so. The chief objection made by the public to the new system is, that all bets are play or pay, and in England the fight, since the inauguration of the system in that country, has been very warm upon the question of the propriety of P.P. bets; and not until well advanced into the present century did this agitation begin to quiet. To this day, tricks and jobs are put on the people by horse owners, that often teach them that it is not always safe to invest money upon a horse under the control of another.

Count F. de Lagrange was very highly complimented during the present year, running Chamant in the Derby, after it was discovered that he had gone amiss, in order, as then stated, to protect those who had backed him, but he was quite as readily cursed, for winning the Grand Prix de Paris, with St. Christophe, when the public had made his colt, Verneuil, a strong favorite for that prize. The nonsense of supposing that Count Lagrange would or would not start a horse for a race, to gratify the backers of the horse, is too patent to require comment. Sportsmen do not rear, train, and bring to the post, at enormous expense, their horses, for the benefit of the public, but alone for their own gratification, pleasure, and profit.

A similar instance occurred in 1812, when an English lord had two horses, Cwrw and a Remembrancer colt, in the same race. The public made a very warm favorite of the latter, and piled money on him without stint. The then celebrated jockey, Chisney, mounted him, and passed the post to start, with a stable lad upon Cwrw. The owner in the meantime got his money placed where he wanted it, when Chisney suddenly changed his mount, and the Remembrancer colt was led off the course and did not start. Cwrw won, thus swamping the public for every dollar placed on the Remembrancer colt, and he was a great favorite. It follows, as a matter of course, that the people did not like this usage. It is but natural that they should have become disgusted when they saw their money taken from them without even a start for it, but when they complained they met with the reply, "It was your money and my horse." In a word, it often happens that the public make so much use of a horse that the owner feels that they have done him great harm. By laying money in large sums upon him they make him a great favorite, much greater often than his merits (of which the owner is generally the best judge) justify, and hence the owner does not feel that he is safe in betting his money at the short odds the public have forced the horse to. It is with horses upon a race course as it is with everything else that is for sale, the demand regulates the price. So the owner in such a case becomes the disgusted party, and declares that, as he cannot bet his money at such odds as he thinks are reasonable, he will not start his horse.

The failure of Ten Broeck to start at Jerome Park this week left his backers in a very unpleasant position. The general public, the masses, believed that he was able to beat Parole, and they backed him freely to do so, very often at long odds, and when he failed to start the disappointment and chagrin were great. But as very few seem to understand that all bets were play or pay, they expected their money back, and on being refused by the book makers, they did not hesitate to denounce the system in unmeasured terms. It is somewhat difficult to understand how a book-maker could protect himself in making a great number of bets, unless all wagers are made play or pay. Suppose for instance, there were five horses in a field, and books are opened on the race, the odds are so laid as to make each bear his relative value in the other four. If there were but four instead of five, or the field was reduced to three

that it would seem to be next to impossible for a book-maker to lose. As a gentleman expresses it, "It is you lose and I win every time." Take the Belmont Stakes for 1878, and examine the odds: 5 to 1 against Spartan, 8 to 1 against Duke of Magenta, 10 to 1 against Albert, and so on to 80 to 1 against Bridget. There are 49 nominations in this event, of these forty-two are in training, and are soon enough to-day to calculate that they may come to the post to start. In case they should, then the idea of placing the short odds of 5 to 1 on any colt is out of question. He has to pass through the winter, change forms in the spring, pass through a careful preparation and training, and he is threatened with a chapter of accidents such as befall ninety nine out of every hundred colts in the land, and the odds offered against the list of mischance that he is liable to are far below what they should be. Look to the others, the highest in the list is 40 to 1, when it is well known that the real odds against many of them is really nearer 200 to 1, and a dozen or more of them should not be allowed to carry money at short odds than 50 and 100 to 1.

The reply to this is that no such field will start as the one we speak of. Of course not, but this is all in favor of the book-maker, and strengthens the argument, for every horse that breaks down, goes amiss, dies, or from any other cause fails to start, leaves, if backed, the money he carried in the book-maker's pocket. The layer forgets, too, that many people will often buy what they neither need nor want if it is cheap, whereas if the price is increased they have no inducement. Hundreds of men would bet ten or twenty dollars on an inferior colt, and take the chances of his winning, if the odds were 100 to 1 against him, while they would not think of doing so if the rates were 25 to 1. It would, therefore, be greatly to the advantage of the book makers to put the rates higher, for it draws customers, and if they win the winnings are much larger. This is the only system of book-making that can ever be made popular in this country. It is the one that is in use in England and France and there the odds are great enough to justify the public in making the bets play or pay, and by that means, and that alone, it meets with public favor.—*Spirit*.

Fur, Fin and Feather.

THE PERILS OF DEER HUNTING.

A thrilling adventure happened the other day at Black Lake in Eyre Township, Ont. The clerk in Mr. Boyd's shanty, Mr. C. J. Kane, in company with the cook, undertook to kill a deer which they had put to water. Kane fired two shots at it, but did not kill the animal. He and J. Lane, the cook, then got into a bark canoe, and went out, armed only with a club, their ammunition having run out. The deer, a very large buck, went for the canoe in very lively style, punching a hole in it, so that it filled rapidly. This happened about 800 yards from the shore, and Lane swam to land, but Kane not being able to swim, stuck to his canoe, and with difficulty managed to reach the terra firma again, exhausted, but very thankful that he had not become winter grub for the bass in the lake. The buck which had thus raised Cain with our sports, and so nearly sunk the real Kane, was killed not long after by another man, and the shanty-men have now 248 lbs. of venison to eat this winter along with their pork.

Mr. Jackson of Chatham, Ont., has purchased from M. M. Lemaire, of Detroit, Mich., in field-trial lemon belton bitch Belle. Mr. Banfield, Clifton, has bought from Mr. J. H. Camiff, Detroit, his blue belton bitch, Forest Rose, a Carlowitz-Rose whelp.

Mr. William English, of Peterboro', Ont., last week shipped two canoes for exhibition in the Canadian department of the great Paris Exposition, to be held in 1877. One of them is finished in a very handsome style, especially for the purpose of exhibition.

Major Gifford, Cobourg, who has been out to the back lakes on his annual hunting expedition, returned home on Monday evening. The gallant Major succeeded in bagging seven fine deer to his own hand, together with a number of ducks and partridges.

Billiards.

In the billiard tournament at St. Louis, Mo., on Nov. 8, Thomas Gallagher, champion of Ohio, beat Anthony Hyser, of Indiana, in a 500 point French carom game, by a score of 500 to 74. Gallagher's average was 27 7/18, which is said to be the largest average on record for a 500 point game.

Last week Maurice Daly and Cyrille Dion played a practice game, 600 points up, at the Vesey street billiard room, New York. To the gratification of Daly's friends, and the surprise of all present, the game was a phenomenal one, and such as has never been equaled anywhere. Maurice started in with a run of 142, followed this with 140 and 200, and then ran the game out with an average of 120.

It is with more than ordinary sorrow that we record the death of Mr. John D. Stockton, of New York, who died at Philadelphia, where he was born, on Monday last week. He was one of the most brilliant writers on the metropolitan press, his style being graceful and pleasing. Mr. Stockton was also well known as an amateur billiard player, and for years had been a frequent visitor at all the prominent rooms. He was also an excellent chess player, and an ardent lover of the game.

TROTTING AND RACING AT LOCKPORT

Lockport, N. Y., Nov. 9—\$80. Trotting. For county horses that had never beaten 2:55. \$40. 20, 12, 8.
 Owner's Champion..... 1 1 1
 Owner's Lady May..... 2 3 2
 Owner's Red Eye..... 3 2 3
 Time—3:05, 3:00, 2:58.
 Same Day—\$50. Running. Half-mile heats, 3 in 5. \$30, 15, 5.
 Owner's Berger Boy..... 1 1 2 1
 Owner's Modoc..... 3 2 1 2
 Owner's Gypsy Girl..... 2 3 3 3
 Time—:57, :55, :59, :59.

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 Full particulars on application to DAVID VAN CAMP, BOWMANVILLE, ONT. 323-4f

WILLIAM DIXON.

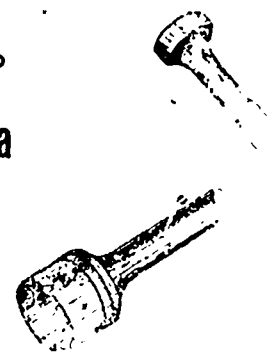
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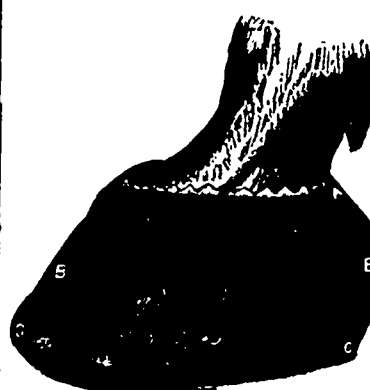
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