

"TOWN AND COUNTRY,"

A WEEKLY RECORD OF

Sports, Recreations, Live Stock Matters

ETC., ETC., ETC.

JAS. WATSON. - - EDITOR.

Office—18 Adelaide St. East, Toronto.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, PER ANNUM, \$2.50.

SINGLE COPIES 5 CENTS.

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Town and Country.

TORONTO, ONT., JULY 7, 1880.

A SENSATIONAL DERBY.

The feature of the past week most decidedly has been the rumour respecting Bend Or not being the colt he was represented to be. We say rumour because so far as can be learned from the cable messages, which are very full, the case had not got beyond that doubtful stage in England. As the full telegram appears in another column of this paper, it is not necessary to do more than refer to its salient features. The supposition or rumour is to the effect that the colt that has run under the name of Bend Or, and whose last victory was in the Derby, is not the colt by Doncaster out of Rouge Rose, but by that sire out of Clemence, the Rouge Rose colt being Tadcaster. It will be seen that this statement is based upon what a stud-groom about to leave his situation was heard to say, which is just about as slight a foundation for a rumour to rest upon as it is possible to imagine. The description of Bend Or, which is said to have called forth these remarks, has appeared many times prior to the Derby in connection with the colts' two-year-old successes, and it seems very singular that not until the stud-groom is about to leave his situation is the discovery made. Such a thing is not impossible, however. The colts as yearlings went to Newmarket prior to being sent to Peck's training establishment at Russley, and

the lads in whose care they were when sent from Eaton Hall might not have accompanied them to Russley, and even supposing they did, a misunderstanding might have taken place as to their respective names which no person unless he had known them as foals could rectify.

It may be as well to state how the laws of racing and betting affect such a case, supposing there is a mistake in Bend Or's pedigree. By the laws of racing he would be disqualified for all the races he has run for and for all future races for which he has already been nominated, he not being the colt he is described as being. It may be said that the actual written law is not particularly clear as to the exact penalty, but the practice and custom of racing amply supplies any deficiency in that respect. In the Grand National Steeplechase Laws on the other hand the case is fully provided for under Rule 16. In addition to the recognized custom of disqualification for erroneous pedigree, the Rules on Betting, as laid down by the Committee of Tattersall's, recognizes it and specially provides for the settlement of bets in such a case. To those who have speculated on the Derby of 1880, it matters little whether Bend Or is Tadcaster or not, for the only persons affected by a disqualification will be the owners of the second horses in the races won by Bend Or and the Duke of Westminster. The latter will in such a case have to refund the stakes, which will then be paid over to the owners of the second horses. Bets are in no way affected by any such alteration, the second rule of Betting providing that "if an objection be made to the qualification of a horse on the ground of incorrect pedigree or nomination, after the race is run, the bets shall go to the horse that comes in first, provided that he is of right age, and that in other respects he has not transgressed the rules of racing." This is manifestly a correct and just law, for people do not bet that pedigrees will win races, but pin their faith upon past performances—public or private.

LACROSSE LAW.

With reference to the decision of the referee in the late Young Shamrock-Independent match. We are asked by the field captain of the former club the following question:

"Please give us your opinion on Rule 9, Sec. 10, Miscellaneous. We played the Independents on the 19th of June. We had a man who was compelled to leave the field in the fourth game through cramps and his feet being hurt during the game, and the referee would neither drop a man nor let me put on one, which I think I had a perfect right to do, according to the rule, so the referee gave the game against me as I would not play?" The Sec. referred to reads as follows: "Should any player become injured during the match, and be compelled to leave the field, the opposite side shall drop a man to equalize the teams."

We are of the opinion that the referee can have nothing to do with such a case, unless there is a difference of opinion between the field captains as to whether the player is really injured or not. No one will for a moment seriously contend that the field captain of a team has a right to force his opponents to put off a man whenever he chooses, by simply asserting that one of his players is injured and cannot play, as such a privilege would be sure to be abused and cause no end of disputes and ill-feeling. Our opinion is, that in such cases the field captain of the injured player should at once consult the opposing captain and offer him reasonable proof of the player's injury. If after that the opposing captain declines to drop a man to equalize the teams, the referee should be appealed to to decide

the then disputed point, his decision in all cases being final (see second sentence of Sec. 2, Rule VI, Referee). This seems to us to be the only fair way to settle this point, as the referee is always supposed to be an impartial judge, who is appointed expressly for the purpose of deciding such points. We do not think that the referee has the right to decide any such point, until it becomes "a disputed point" or "matter of appeal" and brought before him in the way laid down by the rules, that is, by either field captain. If he has, then he has the same right to decide what is a foul, and punish the offender at once without any complaint being made by a field captain, which is clearly contrary to the law, (see Rule XXIII). The cases are parallel, and the principle involved in each is exactly the same, viz., that the referee cannot of himself take official notice of fouls, rough play, disputes, or violation of the rules in any way, unless he is appealed to by either of the field captains for his decision. In other words, after the game has commenced, he becomes simply an official spectator, who is pledged to mete out justice to both sides alike, should he be appealed to on account of any dispute. It is supposed, and practice verifies the supposition, that field captains are well enough acquainted with the game to look after their own interests, and thus save the referee from having to put in force of his own accord, any law which might make him appear to be shewing favoritism to one side at the expense of the other.

With regard to the right of a field captain to put on a fresh man in place of an injured player, we may say, that if the opposing field captain is agreeable, it can be done, if not, it cannot, and there is nothing for it if the referee decide that the man is fit to play, but to make the best of him, or continue the match with a man short.

Referring to the case in point about which this enquiry originated, we are not sufficiently conversant with the facts to give any opinion upon them. We would, however, say that Mr. Maltby's name should be a sufficient guarantee to all lacrosse players that the case was carefully judged, and decided as he conscientiously believed to be right.

TORONTO INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

We have much pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to the advertisement of the Industrial Exhibition, "Canada's Great Fair," which is to be held in this city from Sept. 6 to 18 ensuing. The directors have been most lavish in offering money for all classes of products, etc., and in the branches with which we are more particularly identified the same liberal policy has been followed out. \$600 has been set aside for the speed ring, \$400 for dogs, and \$1,100 for poultry, in addition to which \$800 worth of prizes will be given for Caledonian games. Send for prize lists, as requested in the advertisement.

Mr. J. Maughan, Jr., must feel specially flattered by the good-will offerings tendered him by the directors and employees of the Sovereign Insurance Company, which establishment he has just left to take charge of the Royal Insurance Company's Branch office in this city. The Sovereign directors presented him with a handsome silver tea service and the employees tendered an expression of their good wishes in the shape of a very pretty illuminated address. The gifts are now on exhibition in Mr. Wilkinson's window, King St. East.

Messrs. R. Morrison and Wm. Stewart, of the Toronto Gun Club, left on Monday morning for a week's fishing in the Muskoka district. They have kindly promised to give us a full account of their trip on their return, and have pledged themselves