

"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.****Notice to Correspondents.**

All communications intended for publication, must be accompanied with real name of the writer as a guaranty of good faith. Names will not be published if objection be made. No notice taken of anonymous communications.

We cannot undertake to return rejected manuscripts, unless the necessary stamps are enclosed.

Secretaries of Clubs and Associations are requested to favor us with brief notes of their movements and transactions.

Nothing will be admitted to any department of the paper that may not be read with propriety in the home circle.

Trade supplied by the Toronto News Company.

Advertising Rates.

To advertisers, *Town and Country* can with confidence appeal, as it belongs to that class of journals which is carefully preserved by purchasers, and there being no other medium of a similar character in the Dominion, it is one peculiarly adapted to bring their advertisements before the notice of the purchasing community. The scale of charges for advertising is 10 cents per line for first insertion, 6 cents for each subsequent insertion. Contracts, 3 months, per line, 70 cents; 6 months, \$1.25; 12 months, \$2.00. An inch space equivalent to 12 lines.

Town and Country.

TORONTO, ONT., JUNE 30, 1880.

THE TIME RECORD.

Anything which tends to bring into disrepute any of the leading principles of the turf serves to sink the institution itself. Years ago, when trotting was first introduced as a branch of turf sport the number of horses was few and the rules required for the regulation of trotting were necessarily not numerous nor complex. But as the numbers increased, and this class of racing became more attractive to the multitude, more stringent regulations were required. For a time local Associations assumed control of the matter, but their management was deficient in many particulars. The ruling of one Association would be found at variance with another, and things kept going on in this manner from bad to worse in consequence of the increased number of tracks and the multiplicity of horses, until those who had the control of the leading courses came to the conclusion that something must be done by which an affiliation of interests and a consistency in ruling could be maintained and observed. As an outgrowth of this the National Association for the government and regulation of trotting in the United States and Canada was formed. One of the most important of the measures to which they gave their adherence was the handicapping of horses by the "time test" in previous performances for which the race had been for a purse or stake and over any track. Years of experience up to that time prompted the necessity

of this law. It became impossible to give purses for races on a general principle open to all who had a mind to come for them, as with race horses. The difference in the rate of speed between the horses had become so marked that a distinctive classification was absolutely necessary. A few seconds difference in the time of running horses makes one valuable and the other worthless for that purpose. But in the trotting class it is different. Between St. Julien's performance and that of a 2:40 horse there is a wide margin of time when spoken of in seconds. It was through such a difference, as much at that time as it is now, though the speed was not nearly so great, that a time classification was demanded. It would have been ludicrous to have seen Jim Smith's Tom Wonder, who could beat all the horses in his part of the country, and whose mile could be gauged at 8:10 by the town clock, trot against Lady Suffolk. It was such an anomalous and unsatisfactory state of things that was the reason for bringing about the change which was so palpably required in the interest of this department of the turf. For some years after the formation of the National Association it was the practice, all over the country, to attach "time" to the different heats. But, gradually, unscrupulous and crafty men commenced trotting their entries under a suppression or misrepresentation of the record. The immorality of this proceeding has never had a defender, and the rules were, therefore, made more stringent, and expulsion was deemed the least punishment that could be inflicted on the transgressors. Taking the chances of the offence being overlooked, many, especially in Canada, continued on the broad way which has nearly destroyed this particular branch of sport in the Dominion. Punishments have been administered by the National Association, and many more may follow, showing conclusively that the highest ruling body on the continent will take notice of infractions of the law in Canada, as well as within the United States. A change indicating a better spirit is shown in this Spring's campaign in Ontario. In the Western Circuit the rule was applied without fear or favor, and it is hoped this example will be followed by all the Turf Associations throughout the length and breadth of the land. The injustice that has been done to promising young horses, their owners and the trotting interests in Canada by the vicious "no time" principle, can not well be over estimated. For several years past a few well-known horses "farmed" the "no time" purses until owners of horses of fair merit, and of the class which deserves encouragement, became thoroughly disgusted and disheartened, finally withdrawing from further competitions, the result being the present low condition of trotting in the Dominion. Let it at once be understood that trotting will be conducted strictly according to rule, and it is no question that better fields of horses and larger attendance of spectators will be assured, making it to the interest of all Associations to conduct their business under the golden rule of right. There is another feature in this question that must not be overlooked. There are plenty of gentlemen who would be willing to trot their horses for \$100 and take, with pleasure, any record or bar they might obtain. Now it is no notoriously unjust that some who may have horses that they are saving from a record should be permitted to compete with the former class. True, it is hardly expected that a gentleman who owns a green horse that can show :80 or better, would like to have him driven out at the top of his speed for his share of a purse of \$100 or so. But it will be remembered that the remedy is in the owner's hand. It is not necessary for, nor is it an obligation on him, to start his horse until such time as a purse of sufficient amount is hung up to tempt him. This would be a much more honorable way than to deliberately take advantage of a laxity in the application of the rules to prejudice the worth of another and inferior horse whose owner seeks for no such chances of immunity. Look

at the question as you may, and if the best interests of the turf and the breeding of trotting horses is considered there can be no doubt that the moral side—the upholding of the law—has, by all means, the greater claim to favor, both as a matter of principle and right.

THE GRAND CENTRAL CIRCUIT.

We beg to direct the attention of all Canadian turfmen to the advertisement of the Grand Central Circuit of trotting meetings which begins at Cleveland, Ohio, and extends to Hartford, Conn. Englishmen point to the Derby week, Newmarket, Ascot, Goodwood and Doncaster as being wonderful features in the domain of sport, but to our mind we know of nothing which can compare with this succession of trotting meetings, and we speak from actual knowledge of all of the meetings referred to. \$82,500 is the amount of the purses given during the five weeks' trotting which commences at Cleveland on July 27, and continues at Buffalo, Aug. 3, Rochester, Aug. 10, Springfield, Aug. 17, closing with Hartford, Aug. 24; each meeting extending over four days. As the full particulars of the meetings, which are identical throughout the circuit, will be found in the advertisement we will not repeat them here, but simply call attention to the new features of two-mile heats and the saddle race. To those who are looking out for a place to spend a week's holiday we can recommend a visit to one of the circuit meetings where they will see trotting conducted to perfection, and have a good time generally.

THE AMATEUR ASSOCIATION REGATTA.

A month will still elapse before the first regatta of the Amateur Rowing Association of Canada takes place, but during that time there is much to be done to ensure success. A regatta cannot be run without money, as prizes have to be provided for or crews will not enter, and the cost of advertising, hiring boats, etc., assumes pretty large proportions ere the last bill has been liquidated. That the citizens of such an aquatic head centre, as Toronto has become, will fail to respond to the appeals of the canvassing committee liberally, and so relieve the Association of the most troublesome portion of the work, is beyond belief, and we hope to hear shortly that the full amount required has been secured. The action of the railroad companies is most commendable, as in addition to free passages for crews and boats, a good percentage of the traffic receipts has been promised, and now it remains for hotel proprietors and others who will reap the benefit of the influx of visitors to do their part with alacrity. The various committees of the Association are, we are pleased to state, making good progress, and there is not the slightest doubt but that the entries will be the largest ever received for any amateur regatta held in the Dominion, and of a very superior class. Word has just reached us respecting the kindred association in the States, which holds its annual regatta at Philadelphia next week, and for which over eighty entries have been made. We can well remember the hard struggle that Association had for existence after its establishment in 1872, and it is with no little pride we look upon its present grand proportions which eclipse that of any other regatta in the wide world, for to Mr. W. B. Curtis, then of Chicago, and to the writer is due whatever credit is attached to the work of organizing the Association. The Canadian Association will have a much easier road to travel than the U. S. Association had, for the amateur element is now strong and fully developed throughout the whole continent, and, once on its legs, with a good supply of challenge cups for annual competition, its future is safe. In *Town and Country* the objects of the Association