

PACERS SET THE PACE.

A Review of Last Week's Performance by the Harness Horse.

Public interest in trotting circles naturally centred during the past week at Saginaw, where the opening meeting of the Grand Circuit was for the first time held. It was hard to hold it, as with the exception of a few redeeming performances it cannot be said that the meeting was up to Grand Circuit form. It suffered under this disadvantage that while its first day was decidedly poor, the performances on the same day at Columbus, O., were of the sensational order and the first day often gives the key note to the public.

In this respect Columbus was fortunate, as the management boldly put one of the tramp cars, the free-for-all pace, on the opening day's programme, and it luckily resulted in one of the fastest and best races of the year. In the first heat the battle was between the champion, Mascot, and the bay stallion, Crawford, and it resulted in the fastest heat of the season in a race, Crawford landing in 2:07. This lowers his record from 2:09. Crawford is a trotting head pacer, being by Favor, Wilkes, and was bred at Col. Jacob Ruppert's Hudson River Farm, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. But the favorite would not be refused in the next three heats, the fastest of which was in 2:08.

The 2:28 class brought out a clicking good young stud in the bay stallion Rensselaer Wilkes, by that great Wilkes sire, Alcantara. He had a field of fifteen to beat, but he lost no time in doing it in 2:18, 2:21, and 2:18, which put him in the class he belongs to.

The 2:30 class was also a sample of how quickly in these present times a trotter drops from the green brigade to the fast division. In that race the known names, Simmons, never gave her competitors a chance, but rushed to victory and a record of 2:21. This mare will beat more than will beat her.

The brown horse, Poem, by Gen. Washington, dam by Jay Gould, trotted a heart-breaking race in the 2:14 class, and defeated a great field in 2:14, 2:13 and 2:13. Poem was bred at Fashin Farm, Trenton, N.J., and he does honor to his breeding.

But the race that burnt up the track and introduced two fast sidewheelers from the slow classes was the 2:20 pace. In that race the bay stallion, Alti, by Phillips, dam by Blue Bull, opened the ball by winning the first heat in 2:11. This looked good enough to win, but it was not, as the chestnut horse, Clay Hontas, by Pochontas Sam, rattled off the next three and the race in slightly slower time.

Another wiggling race in the 2:40 class was a corker, the fashionably trotting bred Coleridge, by C. F. Clay, dam by Red Wilkes, winning it, pacing the third heat in 2:12.

That the youngsters go fast at this gait was shown in the three-year-old class, when the gray colt Brookside came in 2:15, and Brennan, by Gamblett Wilkes, won his heat in 2:16. In the same race the bay colt Be Sure scored the same record, Brookside winning the race.

The three-year-old trot brought to the front a new youngster, the bay colt Dimoniro by Piedmont 2:17, who threatens to be a stamewinder, twenty cents fine to him. He took a great field into camp in the excellent time of 2:19, 2:19 and 2:18. The Columbus meeting has certainly been remarkable from beginning to end.

It must not be supposed, however, that while Columbus has been smothering speed in this prodigal manner, that the Grand Circuit meeting at Saginaw was idle. After it got its second wind it also proceeded to dish out speed in wholesale quantities.

In the free for all pace there were those flyers, Robert J. 2:06, Flying 2:04, and Online 2:00. In the first heat the Jib went off with a wet sail and won the heat in 2:07, the fastest time of the year up to date, wiping out the Columbus record of Crawford. Unfortunately the best Californian could not keep up his clip and the Village Farm champion Robert J. won the next three heats in 2:08, 2:09 and 2:09, making the fastest four heats race of the season.

It is a pleasure to note that Rex American, the four-year-old who was barred out of his private reputation, won the 2:25 class in good style, putting in his first heat in 2:16, and his fourth in 2:16. He has started in two races, and won them both.

Clever John Sydn was on hand with his great green bay gelding, Newcastle, which he has plotted to victory in every race he has started in, and he won without reducing his record. This is his sixteenth win, and still the pool box is liable to suffer.

The 2:15 class was a crack contest from start to finish. The Canadian stallion Fido Stanton, put in one good heat in 2:15, but after that the game belonged to the Californian gelding Anote, who took the third in 2:12.

Village Farm, Buffalo, brought out a new good one with the stupid name of Sixty Six, who landed the 2:30 trot in straight heats and attached a record to his name of 2:19. The winner is a handsome bay gelding by Chimes, dam Jersey Lilly, by Hamiltonian Brooming.

Monroe Salisbury's judgment was again endorsed by the victory of the three-year-old filly Expressive by Electioneer, in the three-minute class. He picked her out from a big lot of green ones at Palo Alto last winter and she had so far only lost one race and she was second in that. She put in her first heat in 2:17. Barondale, the fast son of Baron Wilkes, continues his monotonous series of victories in the 2:24 class he had to reduce his record to 2:13, so that he will soon have to stretch his neck in fast company.

But the good wine came last, for the closing day in the meeting Queen Alti trotted in 2:09, and Fantasy trotted the fastest mile of the year in 2:09.

In the east there has been capital sport at classic Mystic Park, Boston. A rank outsider, the bay gelding Kentucky Star, dumped the talent badly in the 2:20 pace, and did it so effectively that he paced the second heat in 2:18. The 2:24 class proved what a good one the chestnut gelding Tomah was suspected to be, as the son of Edgardo got the reel and trotted the second heat in 2:17.

One of the most remarkable races of the year was the 2:16 pace in which the plebeian bred stallion, Socks, won a race of eight heats in the 2:16 class, winning the fifth, sixth, and eighth from a great field in 2:14, 2:17, and 2:19, from a thoroughly tired field. In this race the Baltimore-owned Dude paced the fastest heat in 2:13.

That good stallion, Early Bird, trotted a great race in the 2:16 class, defeating a very superior field in the fast time of 2:14, 2:14, and 2:15. Messenger in Daily America.

HORSES KNOW MATHEMATICS.

A Russian doctor has been experimenting to find how far some of our domestic animals can count. The intelligence of the horse, as is shown in the next number, seems to surpass that of the cat or dog. The instances given by him are interesting, but before they are accepted as authentic they should be verified by the observations of naturalists whose skill and care are unquestioned. He found a horse

which was able to count the mile paces along the way. It had been trained by its master to stop for feed whenever they had covered twenty-five versts. One day they tried the horse over a road where three false mile posts had been put in between the real ones, and sure enough, the horse, deceived by this trick, stopped for his oats at the end of twenty-two versts instead of going the usual twenty-five. The same horse was accustomed to being fed every day at the stroked noon. The doctor observed that whenever the clock struck, the horse would stop and prick up his ears as if counting. If he heard twelve strokes he would trot off contentedly to be fed, but if it were fewer than twelve he would resignedly go on working. The experiment was made of striking twelve strokes at the wrong time, whereupon the horse started for his oats, in spite of the fact that he had been fed only an hour before. — *Clark's Horse Review*.

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