

TOWN AND COUNTRY;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF

Sports, Recreations, and Live Stock Matters.

Vol. 1. No. 13

Toronto, Ont., August 4, 1880.

\$2.50 per Annum.
Single Copies 5 Cents.

Turf.

WOODBINE RACE MEETING.

Better weather could not have been desired than that experienced on Wednesday last when the Woodbine Race Meeting was commenced. There was plenty of warm sunshine, but the heat was tempered by a pleasant cooling breeze from the lake, which but for the sun would have been almost too fresh for summer-aid visitors. It would hardly be possible to secure a finer site for a race-track than Woodbine. We have visited many where the appointments in the way of grand-stands, etc., were finer and of greater architectural beauty, but the natural situation of the track, contiguous as it is to the lake shore and with no disagreeable fence to offend the eye on the other side of the track, is something which the proprietors of the best supported track in the country could not but envy as a much to be desired attraction. We must not omit to mention Mr. Duggan's handsome new hotel, which forms such a feature at the western end of the track, backed as it is by the grove of tall trees in which the equine toilets were for the most part performed. The draw back to Woodbine is the difficulty experienced in reaching it by all who cannot afford to hire a vehicle, or do not own one. It is not from that class that large attendances are obtained, the crowd depending upon the cheap travelling public for its size. True, a tramway runs past the park gates, but the cars are so few and far between that the entire distance may be walked without seeing anything in the shape of a car. Application was made to the superintendent of this wonderful railway for additional cars and better service during the two days, but this how-not-to-do-it official referred the applicant to the car-driver as being the person to arrange matters with. Notwithstanding this disadvantage there was a fair muster of spectators on the first day, and with the exception of one or two of the five-dollar losing and grumbling class, every one appeared well satisfied with the day's sport.

The first event was the mile and a quarter running race for the Brewer's Purse, for which Bonnie Bird, whose first appearance it was since Ottawa, was highly fancied, 5 to 2 being laid on her against her three opponents. The mare seemed big and above herself, although she moved well enough in her fast paces, and such was the case, for after she and Lord Dufferin had raced against each other for a mile they were done for and came back so fast that King Tom gradually got on even terms and won by a scant length from the favorite, she beating Lord Dufferin by a head. An objection was vociferously urged by the trainer of Lord Dufferin on the ground of crowding out by Bonnie Bird on the last turn. There was no such thing to be seen from the stand, but to remove all doubt the designated place was visited and the objection overruled as frivolous. Five out of the ten entries came out for the 2:40 trot, and Lady Thorne performed in such a manner as to raise great suspicions as to her being the genuine article. Without a skip or break she trotted the entire three heats and gained a record of 2:37. Her party were just as bold in their assertions of her being what they represented her to be, a six-year-old mare that had never had a shoe on before this spring, and had only been in the hands of her trainer since May 8. If such is the case, and they claim that everyone around Belleville knows the mare, then she certainly is a wonder, for 2:30 would not find her on the wrong side of the wire.

The Hurdle Race, which wound up the day's programme, was easily captured by Pilot in two heats. Woodbine Park, Toronto, July 28th.—First Race—The Toronto Brewer's Purse, \$175. Open to all

Dominion-bred horses. Jerome Park weights. \$125, \$50. 1 1/2 miles.

D W Campbell's ch s King Tom, 4 yrs, by King Tom, dam Annie Laurie, 118 lbs Pearson 1
John Forbes' b m Bonnie Bird, 4 yrs, by Judge Curtis, dam Bonnie Brae, 115 lbs O'Leary 2
W E Owen's b g Lord Dufferin, aged, by King Tom, dam Vauetta, 121 lbs Gates 3
Holmes' blk g Black Cloud, aged, by Extra, 121 lbs 0

Time—2:20.

Betting—5 to 2 on Bonnie Bird, 3 to 1 agst King Tom, 4 to 1 Lord Dufferin, 10 to 1 Black Cloud.

Bonnie Bird and Lord Dufferin at once drew clear of King Tom, and at the club house were four lengths in front, the mare being slightly in front the Toronto gelding. Down the back stretch Lord Dufferin showed in front for a few strides; but was in difficulties shortly afterwards. He struggled gamely, however, and when fairly in the stretch for home, O'Leary began to move on the favorite. The fast pace now told its tale, and both slackened so fast that King Tom who had been four lengths behind at the three-quarter pole got up opposite the lower stand, and won a fine race by a length, a head between second and third, and Black Cloud nowhere. An objection against Bonnie Bird for foul riding was overruled.

Same Day—Second Race—2:40 Trot; \$200; \$100; \$50; \$30; \$20. Mile heats, 3 in 5 in harness.

McGuire & O'Brien's gr m Lady Thorne	1	1	1
J P Wiser's b h Bellewood	3	3	2
J Mitchell's br m Welland Girl	2	4	3
W Kennedy's ch g Avenue Boy	4	2	4
C E Ray's gr m Queen	5	5	5

Time—2:58, 2:41, 2:37.

So far as the winner is concerned the heats need no description. In the first Welland Girl went off fast, and led by three lengths at the quarter pole, where she broke and the Belleville mare passed her, after which she was never headed in this or the subsequent two heats. In all three heats Bellewood made up a lot of ground in the stretch. Dan Jenkins is undoubtedly a skilful driver, but we can see no reason why five or six lengths should be thrown away on the first half mile, and his horse called upon to make it up in the last quarter of a mile. With a horse immeasurably superior to his opponents, such a course does not matter; but in a horse's proper class it is poor judgment to lose distance at any part of the race, and then have to call upon him for extra effort at the close. Welland Girl and Avenue Boy both showed some fine trotting, but they were unsteady at times, and lost all that their bursts of speed had just gained for them, and Queen was fairly outclassed.

Same day—Third Race—Open Handicap Hurdle race; purse \$175; \$125; \$50; mile heats, 2 in 3; top weight, 155 lbs.

A O Stewart's ch g Pilot, aged, by Jack the Barber—dam by Pilot, 155 lbs	1	1
W E Owen's b m Passion, aged, by Red Eye—Sympathy, 145 lbs	2	2
J Halligan's b g Brown Prince, 130 lbs	3	dis

Time—2:00, 1:59.

First Heat—Long odds on Pilot. The favourite made all the running, Brown Prince driving him along for three quarters of a mile, when Pilot drew away and won easily by two lengths. Passion got up in the last stride, and beat Brown Prince by a short head for second place. Second Heat—Pilot led all the way and won easily by three lengths. Brown Prince distanced.

SECOND DAY.

Thursday as far as the weather was concerned was a counterpart of the previous day, and the attendance was even better. The long array of hacks, carriages and buggies on both sides of the track, showing if anything else were wanted that quality was well

represented, and we were glad to see so many prominent citizens present. Everything passed off pleasantly enough with the exception of the free for all trot, in which for reasons it is unnecessary to explain as the object is only too well known, no record better than 2:35 was given, whereas the first heat was trotted in 2:29, and the other all faster than the time announced. In this we were much disappointed, it was something we had not looked for nor expected, and it was the one blot which marred an otherwise pleasant and well conducted meeting. If no one but the person giving out the time held a watch, outsiders would not know any better, but where fifty gentlemen sit opposite or stand under the wire each with his watch in hand, the correct time is perfectly well known. It is a very foolish thing to do, to say nothing about its being illegal, and it is only catering to the class who never have been, are not, and never will be of any pecuniary advantage to a meeting, and only disgusts and drives away the people who really bring money into the treasury. In the 3:00 class Lady Thorne, trotting in her yesterday's form led from end to end of all three heats, and was never called upon to extend herself in either one of them. A protest was lodged against her, and another against Byron Cole who got second place, having trotted in wonderfully improved form since he was last seen on a track. The free-for-all we have already commented upon, and the mile-and-a-half-dash for the American Hotel purse resulted in the success of the local horse St. James, who ran gamely enough in a hood.

Woodbine Park, Toronto, July 29—3:00 class; purse \$150; \$75, \$40, \$25, \$10; mile heats, best 3 in 5, in harness.

McGuire & O'Brien's gr m Lady Thorne	1	1	1
B Sullivan's blk g Byron Cole	2	2	3
A Farr's br m Yorkville Maid	4	3	2
J P Wiser's blk h Walter Jones	3	4	5
J L Burkart's b h Little Dan	5	5	4
F Henderson's rn g Frank H	7	6	6
Booth's ch h Shelburn	6	7	7
H Einton's ch h Bonus	9	9	8
T H Sheppard's cr g Tom Allen	8	8	dr

Time—2:40, 2:40, 2:40.

Lady Thorne led throughout in the three heats, followed by Byron Cole, who, however, broke badly in the third heat, and Yorkville Maid got second place. Walter Jones did the best part of his work on the homestretch, and at times broke badly, particularly in the last heat, during which he was twice nearly brought to a standstill, and then got fifth. Little Dan did uncommonly well considering that he had not been worked at all, and he would make a first class gentleman's road horse, both on account of his style and nice size. Bonus ran nearly every step of the way, and Tom Allen who trotted, had no business in such company, so he was drawn after the second heat.

Same day—Free for all trot—Purse \$250; \$180, \$60, \$40. Mile heats, 3 in 5 in harness.

Middleton's g g General Beamish	1	3	1	1
D Lambert b g Russian Spy	3	1	3	3
J P Wiser's b m Barbara Patchen	2	2	2	2

Time—2:35, 2:35 1/2, 2:55 1/2, 2:35.

First Heat—Barbara Patchen was three lengths behind when the word was given, and losing a lot of ground was fully eight lengths behind at the quarter pole. The other two trotted side by side Beamish slightly in advance to the three-quarter pole when Spy dropped away, and Patchen coming up in grand style, the grey had all his work to get out half a length in front. Outsiders timed this in 2:30 and better, but 2:35 was announced.

Second heat—Patchen and the General both broke badly going past the club house, and Spy thus got a three lengths lead. Coming round to the three-quarter pole the laggards got on better terms with