

SEASON'S TRACK WINNINGS BY THE EEL.

The season of 1908 will be remembered by Canadian horsemen because of the sensational speeding powers developed by The Eel, a gray stallion, owned by F. W. Entricken, of Tavistock, Ont., and driven by the well-known trainer, Dan McEwen, of London, Ont. During the season, this speedy little horse has brought honor to Canada, and cash to its owner to the extent of over \$17,000.

"When I bought The Eel as a yearling, for \$200, at Deerfield, Mich.," said Mr. Entricken to "The Farmer's Advocate," "I expected he would make a 2.10 pacer. In fact, from the first glimpse I had at him, I counted on him as a Grand Circuit performer."

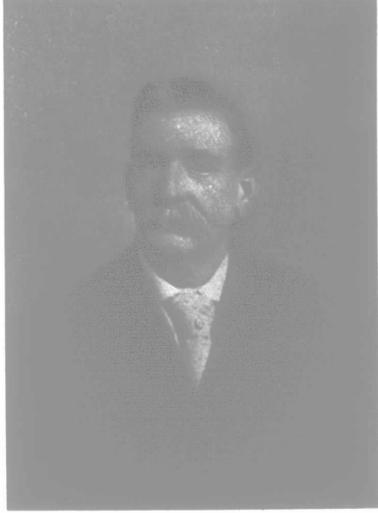
Haute, Ind., he finished second to Minor Heir, but unprejudiced race-lovers did not hesitate to say that The Eel was unnecessarily set back by those in charge of the races. Then Mr. McEwen went to Detroit, to start the Grand Circuit. Once more the odds against him resulted in The Eel finishing second to Minor Heir. But owner and trainer knew The Eel could win, and their hopes were realized when he won first money at Buffalo, N. Y.; Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; Readville, Mass.; Hartford, Conn.; and Syracuse, N. Y. At Columbus, Ohio, he held first position at two race meets, in one of which he won three straight heats from Minor Heir. At Lexington, Ky., also, there were two events; The Eel negotiating third in one and first in the other. The race in which he was third consisted of seven heats, The Eel finishing

world's record for stallion pacers for three heats, at 2.02½, 2.02½, and 2.04½, and also has the honor of doing a half mile in .59, the fastest on the Grand Circuit this season.

"I liked the way he went as a colt," remarked Mr. McEwen. "Two years ago, when he was going a 2.40 clip under training, friends laughed when I told them he would do the mile in 2.10. It was not long, however, until I had him going 2.06½. Last season he worked a mile in 2.05½. He is the largest pacing winner on the track this year, and I brought him through without a scratch. He is clean and sound, and never was sick. At present he is in excellent condition, and looks able to repeat his performance next season."



F. W. Entricken.
Owner of The Eel.



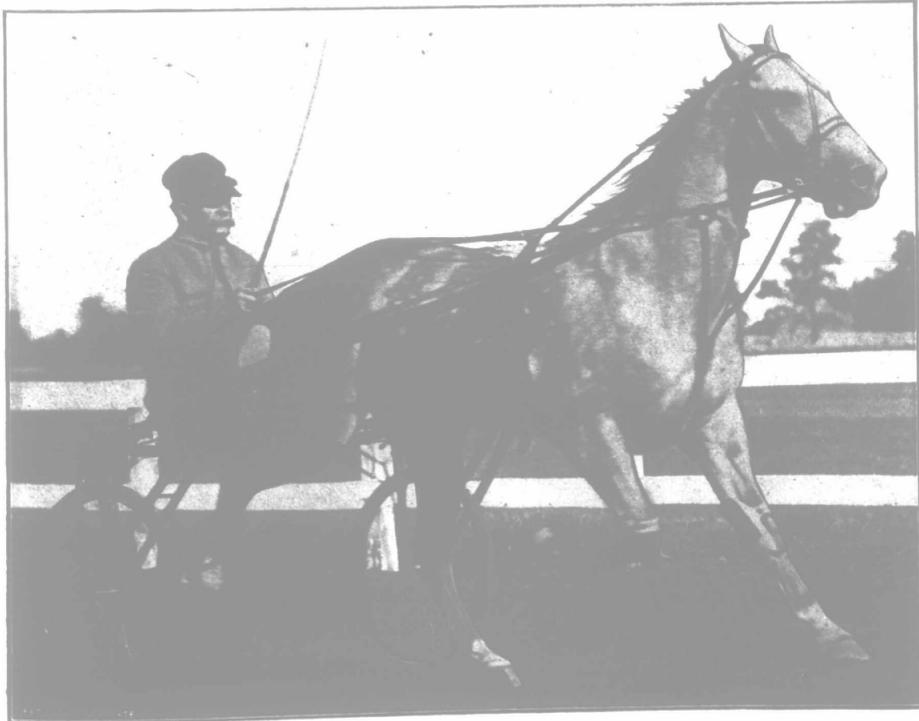
Dan McEwen.
Trainer and Driver of The Eel.

The Eel is six years old this fall. He stands 15 hands 1¼ inches, and last spring weighed ten hundred pounds. In speed, he outclasses his ancestors. His sire, Gambolier, paced at 2.22½, and his grandsire, Gambetta Wilkes, had a mark of 2.19½. His dam, Belle Bidwell, never was trained for the track. She was sired by John L., and is also the dam of Henry C. Smith, with a 2.11½ mark.

During the seasons of 1906 and 1907, The Eel was thoroughly trained, but never competed in a race until the ice events at Ottawa last winter, when he won handily against a strong class of record stallions. In the spring he crossed the International line to try conclusions with the best on the continent. In the first contest, at Terre

second in six and first in one. Minor Heir stood second to Jerry B. For the first two heats, Minor Heir, at the pole, won, after a hard struggle with The Eel. Then the former weakened, and The Eel won. In the fourth heat the latter, after losing time in a mix-up, did the middle half in 59 seconds, and pulled in ahead of Minor Heir for second position, first going to Copa de Oro, Jerry B. had not been forced in these heats, and came up strong, winning the three last, and thus securing the race, although, taking the heats all through, The Eel had distinctly outpaced both him and Minor Heir.

The total winnings of The Eel for the season are \$17,725, and of this amount \$14,700 was taken on the Grand Circuit. He holds the



The Eel in Action (2.02½)— Dan McEwen Up.

Six-year-old stallion, owned by F. W. Entricken, of Tavistock, Ont., which has made winnings in 1908 totalling \$17,725.

LIVE STOCK.

BEEF - CATTLE PROSPECTS.

The prospect and probability is that prices for beef cattle will rule fairly high during the coming winter and spring. This forecast is supported by the scarcity of good cattle in the country available for feeding, and the high prices at which butchers' cattle—that is, light or half-finished stock—are in demand, as compared with the figures exporters are bringing. Another reason for this belief is that, owing to the continued high prices of grain, fewer feeders than usual will have the courage or confidence to buy cattle and corn, or other grain and millfeeds at current or prospective prices, taking the chances of the future market letting them out safely or affording a reasonable profit on the transaction; and for this reason fewer good cattle will be on the market next spring, and prices will probably be higher. Still another reason for believing that Canadian cattle of a desirable class will be taken at good prices is that, owing to the high price of corn in the United States, our largest competitor in the British market, fewer cattle than formerly will be fed in that country this winter. This probability is supported by the flooding of the stock-yards at Chicago and other points with light, unfinished cattle and hogs at the present time, and the fact that comparatively few of these are being taken to the country for feeding purposes. If these premises are deemed sound, the farmer who has on hand a good supply of hay and silage or roots would appear to be on tolerably safe ground in feeding beef cattle this winter, if he has or can secure suitable stock at a reasonable price, which should not be more than four cents a pound for smooth cattle weighing 1,100 to 1,200 pounds, and feeds them judiciously, which means feeding, for the first two months, principally such roughage as hay and straw, silage and roots, with a light ration of one to two pounds daily of meal to begin with, and gradually increasing the meal ration in the finishing period until the animals are on full feed.

The first step in the undertaking, the securing of suitable cattle for the purpose, is, we know, under present conditions, one of the most difficult. Time was when in this country feeders found comparatively little difficulty in securing good grade steers and heifers in sufficient numbers within a few miles of home, or, at the farthest, in the market fairs or the principal city stock-yards. Now it is with difficulty that such can be found, and the feeder who has to compete with experienced drovers and dealers in selecting stock, is up against a by no means easy proposition. This scarcity of suitable feeding stock is largely due to the ever-increasing dairy business, the use of dairy-bred bulls, the vealing of most of the male calves, and probably in part to the feeding of separator milk to the calves, and neglecting to supplement their feed with some fat-producing food, the young stock being lean kine from the start, and a drug on the market at any age. Remedies for difficulties above enumerated are doubtless more easily suggested than applied, but it would appear that in districts not well adapted to dairying, owing to distance from markets, or other causes, the beef breeds might profitably be more largely kept, and young stock raised to supply the demand for feeders, and that in other sections a dual-purpose class of cattle may profitably be cultivated, the cows doing fairly satisfactory work in dairy production, and the male calves, judiciously raised, filling the need for feeding steers. One thing certain is that, if the fertility of the land is to be maintained, stock of some sort must be fed on the farm, and as cattle are the most suitable stock for consuming the roughage of crops, and making manure in largest quantity, either beef or dairy cattle, or both, must be kept, and if one is not disposed to devote his attention to dairying, he has practically no alternative other than the raising of stockers or the fattening of heaves, or better, the raising and finishing of his own cattle, and must take his choice, and if he decides to adopt the latter, he should, in order to succeed, study and ascertain the best type of animals to feed for profit, the best methods of feeding, the best combination of foods for profitable gains, and how to buy and sell to best advantage.