

National Trotting Association in lessening the receipts of its members. In place of putting up the large amount of money required, Mr. Hughes has seen many of the owners of horses who would profit by the penalization of Fides, and has been met most generously. Of the \$3,320 won by Fides, \$2,650 has been signed off."

Should this sort of thing continue it will not take long to very materially depreciate the value of Canadian horses in the American market. Fides was no "ringer" in the ordinary acceptance of the term. There was no mystery about his breeding, and everybody supposed that his history was as creditable as that of any trotting horse need be. In fact about the only thing against Fides was that he had been raised in Canada, a country where time suppression and misrepresentation are extensively practised.

It is true that a large share of these penalties have been generously signed off, Mr. Frank Martin, of this city, the owner of Rifleman, being one of the heaviest claimants to turn over his claim without the shadow of hesitation or consideration of any kind. But no one will suppose that these assignments have been secured without a very serious expenditure on the part of the present owner of Fides. Alderman Hughes sent a messenger all the way to this city to interview Mr. Martin on the subject, and it is presumed that others having claims against the delinquent were dealt with in a similar manner. Indeed, were Fides not a horse of altogether exceptional speed and promise his present owner would never have undertaken to settle the claims against him and maintain his standing on the trotting turf. And all this is because of what was probably some wretched little Saturday afternoon race got up for the purpose of increasing the bar trade at one or two hotels, and in which the amount trotted for did not exceed fifteen or twenty dollars. Were it not that there are so many more just like them throughout Ontario and Quebec the horsemen of St. Catharines should feel thoroughly ashamed of the notoriety they are receiving through this affair.

It is to be hoped, now that this evil of time suppression is assuming such a direct and practical aspect, that every respectable horseman in the Dominion will do his utmost to stamp it out at once.

#### THE PACING CROSS IN THE TROTTER.

Elsewhere we print a letter from "Hopeful," in which after the prevailing fashion of the day he lauds the "pacing cross" to the skies. It is hardly necessary to go over all the ground covered by our correspondent. He writes cleverly, and evidently thoroughly believes what he says. He has the records pretty well at his finger ends, and trotting records, like figures, generally can be made to prove almost anything. Indeed, there is so much uncertainty about the pedigrees of trotters and trotting sires, that if a theorist be allowed to take his own plan and found data upon theory and

theory upon that data again he can make his case a very strong one before he gets through with it. For example, like other people who know nothing of the Tippto family or any of its branches, he attributes to the ancestor of the Wild Deers, Warriors, and Royal Georges pacing ancestry. Had he lived here in Canada, where these families of horses are strongly represented, he would know better than to do anything so foolish, for he would know that a pacer in any one of these families has seldom if ever been known. Enthusiasts who are very strong on theory, and who will only accept as facts such statements as suit their purposes, are very fond of assuming all sorts of things concerning Canadian horses because they are very apt to have their statements go uncontradicted. To very many American horsemen Canada is *terra incognita*, and they are ready to believe anything that is told them concerning it. Men who have never set foot on Canadian soil will write and talk very learnedly about the "Canuck pacer," as though pacing was the natural gait of the Canadian horses in general, or at all events of a majority of them, and as though we had here a breed of horses that invariably paced. Now all this is the silliest nonsense that anybody ever imagined. Twenty or thirty years ago it was not difficult to meet with pacers among the French ponies in what is now the Province of Quebec, but among these there were quite as many trotters as pacers, in fact the trotters were the more numerous of the two classes, but to refer to them as different breeds, or even families, is manifestly wrong. Among the progeny of pacing sires and pacing dams would be found trotters, while trotters would in turn produce pacers. So far as Canadian stock is concerned, we have not now nor have we ever had a breed of pacers. With us the disposition to pace has been accidental rather than inherited, and there is good reason to believe that it is so the world over. The writer of these lines has seen the Lower Canadian ponies in large numbers, and has seen among them both pacers and trotters. Among the ponies of the Red River Valley the same thing has been observed. On the South Saskatchewan a better class of ponies were found than in the Red River Valley, but still pacers and trotters were found indiscriminately mixed up in the same manner. Near the foot of the Rocky Mountains the ponies were of a still better class, known there as the Cayuse (the breed being supposed to have been originally brought over the mountains by the Cayuse Indians), but still there were found mingled among them both pacers and trotters. Here were ponies of all colors, gaits, and dispositions, though all bore the leading characteristics of the Cayuse tribe, and yet no one could say that they were a race of either trotters, pacers, or gallopers, though among them were to be found occasional proficient in each of these gaits.

And this is not all. It often happens that a pacer results from the union of a thoroughbred race horse with a trotting pony mare.

If we were inclined to theorize upon this

fact we should say that the pacing gait is a compromise between the trot and the gallop, and that the union of a mare having very strongly defined trotting action with a horse whose natural inclination leads him to gallop will generally produce either a pacer or a horse that can very easily be induced to pace.

We prefer to take our facts as we find them, however, and when this is done legitimate theories will grow out of them, and not require any building. Of this we are certain, however, that no one in Canada has ever been able to breed pacers, either slow or fast, with any degree of certainty, and we have yet to learn that there is any locality where a family of pacers have been found with prepotency enough to perpetuate their own gait with any degree of certainty, to say nothing of overpowering the prepotency of a thoroughbred race horse parent. Indeed, it is much more than probable that the reason why the Canadian pacer has won such a name for himself as a factor in trotting horse pedigrees is that he had in his veins the blood of the race horse mingled with that of the Lower Canadian trotting pony. Thirty years ago very many farmers throughout Canada had on their farms for brood mares warm-blooded animals that had been brought out here as chargers by British officers. The sons and daughters of Old Tippto looked as though their sire had been the result of such a cross as the one just described, and it is highly probable (taking the subsequent history of the family into account) that he was.

As to Blue Bull, there appears to be excellent reason to suppose that he was the result of a cross between a thoroughbred on one side and a well-defined trotter on the other.

The remarks of "Hopeful" regarding the Electioneer—Dame Winnie colt go to show how thoroughly one's judgment can be warped by an ardent adherence to some pet theory. Unless we are mistaken, that same colt will prove a terrible stumbling block to the worshippers of cold-blooded trotters. In the meantime we would recommend "Hopeful" and others who lay so much stress on the pacing cross to go and find a well-defined breed of pacing horses, or even a family of pacers. We freely admit that there are pacing crosses in the pedigrees of many excellent trotters, but we do not believe any distinctively pacing breed of horses ever existed.

#### ADVANCE REPORT OF THE ONTARIO EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

The advance report of the Ontario Experimental Farm for midsummer, 1885, reached us too late to admit of its being exhaustively or even satisfactorily noticed in this issue. As might be expected of anything coming from Professor Brown the report gives evidence of a great deal of hard work conscientiously and intelligently applied. From some of the professor's theories, however, we are strongly inclined to differ, so strongly in fact that we cannot suppress a sentiment of regret that a gentleman so thoroughly advanced in his views