

## SUPPRESSION OF TIME.

More than one horse owner in this section has endeavored to convince us that the National Association will take no notice of the suppression of time on tracks not belonging to the Association. Perhaps this belief may be more prevalent than we had imagined and account in some measure for the impunity with which the rule is disregarded throughout the Dominion. A case of "no time" at Cortlandt, N. Y., has been brought to the notice of our able contemporary the *Spirit of the Times*, and it is editorially commented on as follows:

We are disposed to heartily cooperate in all endeavors to break up these too common and fraudulent practices. People who undertake to influence judges not to time, and judges who are influenced to consent to the suppression, do so with their eyes open to the provisions of Rule 41 of the National Trotting Association, which reads as follows:

"In any public race, if there shall be any intentional suppression or misrepresentation in either the record or the announcement of the time of any heat in the race, procured through any connivance or collusion, arrangement, or understanding between the proprietor, or judges, or timers and the owners of the winning horse, or his driver or other authorized agent, it shall be deemed fraudulent; and any horse winning a heat or making a dead heat wherein there was such a fraudulent suppression of time, together with the parties implicated in the fraud shall, by operation of the rules, be henceforth expelled."

This rule is severe, but not as severe as it should be. It is easy to prove in regard to a race that no time was given out, but it may be difficult to prove that there was "connivance or collusive arrangement" between proprietor, judges or timers, and the owners of winning horses, or their authorized agent, because schemers are not likely to expose each other. In our opinion, the rule would be better and far more effective if it was based upon the broad assumption that every participant in a race in which time was suppressed is *particeps criminis*, at least as far as guilty knowledge is concerned. It should be made to read so that all owners, with their horses, who took part in a race in which time was suppressed or misrepresented, should be expelled, by operation of the rules, unless, after the first heat in which such fraudulent practices were resorted to, they could prove that they made protest and withdrew from the race. It is idle to presume innocence on the part of any participant in such an affair, and the burden of proof should be placed where it belongs. As it is, we print every week summaries to which the significant words "no time" are appended, and that is the end of it. No one cares to complain, no one takes the trouble to prove the facts, perhaps no one can prove the fact of collusion, and cunning, scheming horsemen get the benefit of experience for their young trotters to the disadvantage of honest owners. The hands of the National Association are virtually tied, unless they organize a regular detective commission, which would be impossible.

As the rules now stand, individual effort must be depended upon to reform this evil, and that it is an evil no argument is needed to prove. It is unsportsmanlike, it is taking a mean advantage over honorable competitors. Every man who feels as our Cortlandt correspondent does, and who has access to the facts, should take pains to post himself so as to present a strong case to the Board of Appeals, furnishing, if possible, the proof of collusion which is needed to allow the rules to "operate." In any case where no time is given out it is sufficient to expel the judges, the timers, and the track, of itself, but these people may not care for the penalty; probably, as their practices indicate, not desiring fellowship with the National Association. The owners and the horses must be reached to make punishment effective in a reformatory direction, and this is more difficult. There is, however, the strongest kind of a *prima facie* case against these individuals whenever time is suppressed, and very little additional proof would be needed to convince the Board of Appeals that there was the collusion necessary to give the rules their perfect work. We wish that our Cortlandt correspondent, and all others who fall foul of such practices, would send us the full summaries of the races in question. We will print them, and give the words "No Time" at the foot, in large letters, so that the attention of the officers of the National Trotting Association may be called to each case. If the officers of a track can then furnish satisfactory explanation of the failure to comply with the rules, well and good; if not, they stand expelled, and all the participants in the race are, to say the least, tainted. We love the trotter and trotting sport, and will lend our best assistance to all intelligent

efforts to obliterate this blot upon the turf, which Rule 51 dabs at but fails to expunge.

The *Spirit* never fails to carry out its announced intentions, and Canadian trotting men should therefore take warning in time for all reports of trotting races in the Dominion are given in the *Spirit* so that they will be on record for the Annual Trotting and Pacing Guide.

EXPULSED UNDER THE RULES.—PICKTON, ONT., July 7.—*Dear Spirit*: Seeing your report of our meeting on May 24 and 25 last, and a record given, I wish to inform you, as Secretary of the Association, that we advertised no time, and neither was there any time given from the judges' stand, but some malicious outsider has reported time for the purpose of giving some green horses a record for a purpose of their own. Our track is a new track, and, as there is no association in Canada, we have never yet given time from the judges' stand, but would hold up both hands to form a Dominion Association and trot and run to rule.

Signed and sealed with the seal of the Pickton Driving Park Association Limited, this 7th day of July, A.D. 1880.

[L.S.] J. F. GULLESPIE, Secretary, and Treasurer.

[NOTE.—It follows from the above that the judges at Pickton, the track, and all horses that won heats, and their owners, if they were in collusion for the suppression of time, are expelled from the National Trotting Association.—*Ev. Spirit*.]

## POOL SELLING AT DETROIT.

The Jockey Club meeting which closed Saturday evening was in many respects the liveliest affair of the kind that has taken place in many years. It was not profitable in a pecuniary sense. In fact the managers had more money to pay out than they took in, but the races were all fairly run, and the favorites came out victorious every time. This is a highly creditable thing for the club, but hard on those who bought pools on the field.

But the races themselves pale into insignificance beside the fierce contest that grew out of them, wherein a set of men who have been powerful in Detroit sporting circles for years pitted themselves against the Jockey Club managers and were worsted, although they had the letter of the law on their side.

The cause of the difficulty, as stated by Mayor Thompson, who is president of the Jockey Club, is that "John Demass and his crowd, who have used the Detroit race tracks for years for crooked business, want to prevent decent people from using them for legitimate purposes."

The trouble grew out of the refusal of the Jockey Club to allow John Demass to run the pool-selling. Last year he bulldozed the managers into allowing him the privilege, but this year they let it to the best bidder, and Armstrong and Bride took it, paying \$1,050. Demass & Co. only bid \$500. Thereupon Demass determined to break up the pool selling, impelled by some discriminations against himself. A complaint was therefore sworn out by W. H. Sullivan, upon an affidavit made by John Fleming, under the State law forbidding gambling and pool selling. John Demass was on the bond of the complainant. On Thursday afternoon about three o'clock, the even course of events at the race track was interrupted by the arrest of Armstrong and Bride, by Constable Bradford. They were taken down town with their whole outfit, Mayor Thompson wrathfully followed, and appeared with them before Justice Toll, who admitted them to bail, Mr. Thompson and Mr. W. J. Crittenden giving bonds for their appearance. The whole party then hurried back to the race track.

Everybody knew this was not to be the end of the affair. Demass and his crowd were wildly denounced, and it only made them the more anxious to get even. They had been ruled off the track, their horses had been bound, and generally they had been made to feel that they had a big fight on their hands.

All Friday forenoon, the pool sellers, who knew they were to be arrested during the day, courted their fate so they could give bail, and have the thing

over with, but that was not the plan of the enemy. Warrants were prepared for the afternoon, and the Jockey Club managers had a counter movement arranged. Justice Toll was prevailed upon to attend the races. A strong guard of policemen waited near, and Mayor Thompson stood at bay with Prosecuting Attorney Brevoort and City Attorney Baker at hand to assist. They appeared nominally as attorneys for the pool sellers.

The pool selling was in full blast when constables Genick, Bradford and Maas appeared and again arrested the pool sellers. Justice Toll organized his court on the spot and admitted them to bail to appear at nine o'clock Saturday morning. The constables then obtained a warrant from Justice Schweikert, of Hamtramck, and again appeared, just as the last race was beginning.

"I arrest you!" said Constable Genick, as he climbed over the rail of the pool stand. "Show your warrant," said the man addressed. Mr. Brevoort came forward: "You must show your warrant," said he. "You can't make me," retorted the constable, "if you are Prosecuting Attorney."

Mayor Thompson hurried over from the judge's stand. He also wanted to see the warrant, but his request was refused. "You can't take these men without a warrant," said the Mayor, with emphasis.

The constable got excited; he pushed roughly against Brevoort, and called him a very disagreeable name. Brevoort grabbed him and threw him headlong from the stand into the crowd. He was shook up considerably but not much hurt. The excitement became frightful. The prosecuting attorney performed prodigies of valor. Constable Bradford also made a terrific fight. Some one struck him square in the nose just before he gained a footing, but he fought nobly all the same. P. Blake, the undertaker, sailed into the melee for some purpose that can only be explained on the ground that he is Irish. He was grappled, his coat was torn from his back, and almost before he knew what was the matter he was on the way to the Black Maria in the grasp of half a dozen policemen. They let him go when they found out who he was, but he doubtless considers his attempt to settle that dispute one of the most hazardous undertakings of his life.

As the battle fiercely raged one of the constables started to pull a revolver. A southerner who was an excited witness, covered him with his in an instant, and he would have been a dead man if another man had not struck the weapon down. The beaten constables were rushed out of the infuriated crowd and into the Black Maria to save their lives, and after conveying them to a safe distance the police let them go. It is stated that if they had shown their warrant no effort would have been made to prevent the arrests. As soon as they disappeared the pool selling went on.

The conduct of Mayor Thompson and Mr. Brevoort gave great delight to the sporting men. One enthusiastic Kentuckian who wore a big diamond remarked, referring to the latter: "If we had such a prosecuting attorney down in Kentucky we would keep him in all his life."

Friday evening and Saturday scarcely any other subject was talked of but the riot and its causes. Solemn resolutions against Demass and his men were passed by the Jockey Club. Constable Genick had offered to withdraw the serving of the warrant for \$50. Ed. Gillman offered \$25, but it was refused.

Mayor Thompson on Saturday forenoon made an order suspending Genick from his office. In fact the faith and dignity of the city of Detroit were pledged as strongly as possible to the Jockey Club side.

The interested parties all appeared in Justice Toll's court on Saturday morning. Chas. E. Miller, who appeared for the complainants, said his witnesses were not ready, and requested a continuance till Monday. Mr. Baker, for the defendants, objected as they desired to leave town and wished to have the thing settled. The Justice granted a delay until noon, and about one the constables appeared and withdrew the charge. The sport Saturday afternoon was undisturbed.—*Detroit Sunday Herald*.