

"TOWN AND COUNTRY,"

A WEEKLY RECORD OF

Sports, Recreations, Live Stock Matters

ETC., ETC., ETC.

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Town and Country.

TORONTO, ONT., AUGUST 11, 1880.

TROTTING LAW.

A very peculiar case and one likely to create a lively discussion ere it is finally decided, occurred at Buffalo on Friday last, the circumstances being as follows: The race was the free-for-all pacers, and five horses took part in it—Sorrel Dan, Sleepy Tom, Lucy, Mattie Hunter and Rowdy Boy. The first heat was won by Lucy, who made a dead heat with Sleepy Tom in the fourth heat and then won the fifth. Sorrel Dan won the second and third heats. Under Rule 81, Mattie Hunter and Rowdy Boy were ruled out, the former being then entitled to fourth money, and the three left in trotted one more heat, which was won by Sorrel Dan, thus finishing the race. In this heat, however, Lucy was so tired that she failed to save her distance, and the question arises as to whether she is entitled to receive any money.

The persons interested in Lucy claim that as she lived longer in the race than Mattie Hunter, who

got fourth money, she must therefore be entitled to third money, while on the other hand the owners of Sorrel Dan insist that as they distanced Lucy they are entitled to third money. No previous case of a similar nature has occurred, and their being no precedent as a guide on which to act, the rules must be carefully examined to see what they indicate as being the correct decision to be rendered. Rule 81 provides that "a horse not winning a heat in the first five shall not start for a sixth, unless said horse shall have made a dead heat, but horses so ruled out shall have a right to a share of the purse or premium, according to their rank at the close of their last heat." This specifically provides for Mattie Hunter, who not having won a heat nor made a dead heat, but being better than Rowdy Boy on the record, became entitled to fourth money. Rule 86, second clause, is as follows: "When more than one horse remains in the race entitled to be placed at the finish of the last heat, the second best horse shall receive the second premium if there be any; and if there be any third or fourth premium, etc., for which no horse has won and maintained a specific place, the same shall go to the winner." In the third paragraph of the same rule, with regard to deciding the rank of horses, we find this: "a horse winning a heat or making a dead heat and not distanced in the race, better than a horse that has not won a heat nor made a dead heat." Rule 87—Distances—states explicitly "a distanced horse is out of a race."

In endeavoring to arrive at a decision, it is first of all requisite to throw on one side as irrelevant to the question at issue any consideration as to the respective standing of Lucy and Mattie Hunter, it being a fact beyond question that any bet as between these two as to which should live longer in the race are unquestionably won by the backers of Lucy. That is not the point, but it is one which only concerns Lucy and Sorrel Dan—the one the distanced horse, the other the winner of the race. It is necessary for a horse to maintain a specific place up to the finish of the last heat to become entitled to any portion of the premium, and this was not the case with Lucy, for she was a distanced horse in that heat, and Rule 87 clearly and explicitly states that "a distanced horse is out of the race." Then again it is obvious that that portion of Rule 86 which says that "a horse winning a heat * * and not distanced in the race better than a horse that has not won a heat" can be logically reversed, and a distanced horse thereby be ranked below a horse ruled out by operation of the law. It does seem anomalous for the longer liver to be the worst horse in the race, but on the other hand it is not out of the way for the owner of Mattie Hunter to complain that under the circumstances he was harshly treated by the rule, for if he had not been ruled out he would have got third money instead of fourth. There are a number of ways of finding fault with the way in which the law treats the horses, but there is but one way to decide the race, and that is to consider it as one in which only Sorrel Dan, Sleepy Tom and Lucy were concerned, and that as Lucy was distanced and was thereby "out of the race," the money she would have been entitled to had she "maintained a specific place" until the termination of the final heat accrues to the winner of the race, and Sorrel Dan is entitled to first and third monies.

THE AMATEUR REGATTA.—To our mind the most conspicuous feature of the regatta held on Toronto Bay last week was the excellence of the appointments of

the men and their boats. It was a model regatta, for the contestants were dressed in neat and suitable costumes, and seated in boats fitted with all the modern appliances and fixtures for the development of speed. In this latter respect it was far ahead of the belauded English regattas, and fully the equal of anything yet seen in the States.

WOODCOCK.—The first was not the kind of day one would choose for a commencement of the shooting season, the heavy downpour of rain during the morning and afternoon in this neighborhood putting a stop to all sport. Poor bags were the result as a rule, the best we have heard of being 16 brace by Messrs F. B. Cooper, R. Elgie, and a friend who took in the Dixie, Cookesville and Springfield district. Mr. Pring, of Hamilton, reports eight brace to his own gun, which is the best individual score we have heard of.

A WESTERN CIRCUIT.—A brief announcement will be found in our advertising columns respecting a circuit of meetings to be held at St. Thomas, London and Woodstock. We regret that we cannot give any definite particulars beyond stating that St. Thomas takes place Aug. 18 and 19; London, Aug. 25, 26 and 27, for which entries close August 20, purses \$1,620; and Woodstock in the following week, purses \$1,600. Associations should prepare and announce their programmes at least a month ahead, for how is it possible for owners to make arrangements at a few days' notice? As it is, our readers must in this case wait until within a day or at most two days of the date for closing entries at London ere they can know what classes the purses are for, and that is not sufficient notice. Send on your programmes early, gentlemen, and let us know what you are giving the money for.

OGDENSBURG PACES.—On our outside page will be found the full programme of the race meeting to be held at Ogdensburg, N. Y., on September 7th and three following days, by the Oswegatchie Agricultural Society. Purses to the amount of \$3,600 are offered for running, steeplechasing, trotting and pedestrianism. The full particulars are set forth in the advertisement, and we need not refer to them at length here. This meeting is one of a circuit held in that section of New York State at the end of August and month of September, and special inducements are thus offered to Canadian turfmen to cross the line. Entries for Ogdensburg close Sept. 1, and time made previous to August 24 only counts as a record.

MAUD S. AND ST. JULIEN.—On Thursday Rochester hopes to electrify this continent by the breaking of the record, and to that end have offered two purses of \$2,000, one to St. Julien and the other to Maud S., as an inducement to them to beat the present record of 2:12½. As every one knows this is the mark reached by St. Julien, while Maud S. at Chicago a few weeks ago trotted in 2:13½ and was eased up on the homestretch. Either one of these advertised performances should be attraction sufficient for one afternoon, but with the two combined the attendance at the magnificent Rochester track should be the largest ever brought together on a trotting park.

TORONTO AND MONTREAL GUN CLUB.—A special meeting of the Toronto Gun Club was held last Saturday evening, when it was decided to invite Montreal to send on ten men during the second week of the Industrial Exhibition, and shoot a match against a similar number of the Toronto Club at 15 birds each, 21 yards rise. A return match will afterwards take place at Montreal.

PIONER SHOOTING TOURNAMENT.—A grand shooting tournament is announced to take place at Dundurn Park, Hamilton, on August 25th and 26th, for purses amounting to \$250. See advertisement.