

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

The one event I hear most talk of in sporting circles is the meet at Moosepath, Monday. Before I talk of the entries and the chances of the winners, let me congratulate the St. John Agricultural society upon their move and the bright outlook for many successful seasons and meets.

They will succeed, I am confident, in making a better track, they will tear the reins of the "loafers' roost" from the grounds, and in its place erect a neat grand stand, thus will make the more place popular, if they manage it as I think they will, but they will have hard work to make people call it by any other name than "Moosepath."

After all, why change the name? It means more advertising, gentlemen, and that means more cash. The public is kindly disposed to "Moosepath," and life is too short to say, "The St. John Driving park."

There are a few four-year-olds in town and out of town which should, according to the rumors industriously circulated by their admirers and trainers, surprise an expectant public, Monday. There is Frank Nelson, from Flying Dutchman, owned by Kelly & Murphy, of Portland, who came in second in the colts' race in Fredericton last fall. Nelson comes of good stock, but has his work cut out for him if he would have a place.

Lady Max is a Sir Charles mare and has made a very favorable impression upon all who have seen her performances. She is green, but they say has plenty of speed and endurance.

Charlie Bell is handling John A., a Rampart colt, and no doubt thinks he has a soft job to leave the field. John A. appeared on the Fredericton track last fall and tied Nelson for second place.

The Chicago Horseman, commenting on the lease of Moosepath by the Agricultural society, says: "This is good news for the horse interests, as that park, of late years, stood in need of strong backing. Conn's Harry Wilkes is making the season at St. John. His book is full and running over. There will be a hot contest in the four-year-old race at Moosepath, July 2, as George Carvill has a filly by Sir Charles which is going fast, and Fred Harding has one by Sir William Wallace, 2.27 1/2, that is a chip off the old block."

Harry Wilkes' limit this year was 60 mares, which, at \$35 each, nets \$2,100. Not a bad investment for \$5,000.

I am very glad that our turf friends in the outside towns have decided to join the National Trotting association. That in itself is a guarantee of their desire to do justice to horsemen and the public. The representatives of five tracks, St. John, St. Stephen, Houlton, Woodstock and Fredericton, met at the latter place, Wednesday, and not only agreed to make the above move, but also arranged for a fall circuit.

It is a good programme, and though but in the rough, is worth giving. When the dates are at hand, the best speeders will be known, and everyone in condition for good work. I give the outlined programme, as follows:

- At St. John. Sept. 12—A three-minute class, purse \$125; 2.40 trot, purse \$175. Sept. 13—2.50 trot, purse \$150; free for all, purse \$300. At St. Stephen. Sept. 19—A three-minute class, purse \$150; 2.40 class, purse \$200. Sept. 20—2.50 trot, purse \$150; free for all, purse \$300. At Houlton. Sept. 27—A three-minute class, purse \$100; 2.40 trot, purse \$125; free for all, purse \$175. At Woodstock. Sept. 29—4 years old class, purse \$100; 2.50 trot, \$125; free for all, \$175. At Fredericton. Oct. 3 and 4—Same races and purses, subject to change, as at St. John.

A word on the committees—they are good ones. Mr. Flewelling is a good man for circuit secretary; he understands his business and any information he has will be given willingly. Mr. Todd is an enthusiastic horseman and has plenty of leisure to attend to the chairman's duties. Messrs. Todd and Clarke will arrange for railway rates, Messrs. Golding and Johnson for boarding horses and Messrs. Johnson and Flewelling for advertising. Much depends on the men in charge of a circuit, but I take it that if success fails it will be no fault of these gentlemen.

The butchers in the country market have been talking about a foot race run on Gilbert's Lane, for the last week. The race was run by two young men who work in the market and a good deal of money was staked on it. Only two persons are known to have won any of the money, and it is said that they scooped in about \$140 between them. Everybody says the race was a fake, and a great many wanted to see young Keefe, who came in second, but he had gone to Fairville. This action from

all accounts was well advised. The winner, whose name is Kane, is said to be very much slower on foot than Keefe, but it is acknowledged on all hands that they are both smart young men.

When a man whom I have criticized begins to talk fight, I know that I have hit the nail on the head. I did that, last Saturday, in at least two instances, and I received reliable information, the same day, that two alleged ball players proposed to beat me on sight. I have heard this sort of thing before, but I have never been beaten yet, and I am now eating just as many meals and sleeping just as many hours as usual. If I do any man an injustice, I am always ready to apologize, but I never back down before the threats of a blather-skite. Gentlemen who feel aggrieved will please take notice.

It seems likely now that the Nationals will not visit Halifax, as the Socials appear to be unable to arrange for both games to be played Monday. I am sorry, but it couldn't be helped on our side. Neither Bell nor Milligan could be long absent, and there is a prospect that Sam wouldn't be able to go at all. It is likely that, if the boys went, his place would be filled by A. B. Holly, a new man, who covers second well, they say, is a good batter, and would, with practice, make a very fair backstop.

Though the Atlantas can't come, unfortunately, a picked nine from Halifax will visit us next Monday and play the Shamrocks two games on the Barrack square. I look to see the St. John boys make a good showing. Their battery will be Connolly and Hennessey, with Lane on first, Costigan on second, Joseph Gleeson on third and Wm. O'Leary as short stop. The new uniforms of the Shamrocks will be worn for the first time Monday, and I hope every separate suit will be a mascot.

To THE EDITORS OF PROGRESS: Having read your remarks on Robinson's play in the last issue of your paper, I beg to make the following statement, in fairness to Mr. R.: He had a bad finger to contend with, and I understand he had a hard morning's work before he went to the ground, and I hold, under the circumstances, could not do as well as might be expected. If Mr. Robinson will play ball as well as he can, and do nothing when on the field but play ball, I think PROGRESS and the public will have nothing to find fault with.

A. O. SKINNER. St. John, June 26. President Skinner's position is that of PROGRESS also. If Robinson will "play ball as well as he can, and do nothing when on the field but play ball" PROGRESS will have little fault to find with him.

The Lansdownes and Emeralds played a sharp game, Tuesday, the former club winning by one run. The only reason I can see for the game being close was that one club played about as badly as the other.

I did not see Knowlton pitch, but from the appearance of the score sheet, when I did arrive, I should judge that the Emeralds had been amusing themselves with somebody.

There was some good playing done, however, noticeably that of Stewart and Martin. Hatfield caught well and Lemihah held everything, but I don't think Mitchell can catch as well with one hand as he imagines.

That leaders cannot do as they please with tail-enders, was brought home to the Clippers, Wednesday. They were not going to put their best men in the field, but they found they needed all who were there.

Williamson asked Anson to allow him to lay off on account of illness recently. He said he did not sleep well and felt very bad. Anson looked at the big short stop for a moment, and then drew \$20 out of his pocket, and handing it to Williamson said: "There; I guess that is what troubles you." Williamson took the money with the remark that he felt better already, and played ball for all he was worth. It is asserted that that was Williamson's method of getting back a fine.—Boston Exchange.

Mike Kelly leads the Bostons in everything—runs, base hits, stolen bases, total batting average.

If you are watching the National league games, keep your eye on Detroit. Chicago is not anchored to first place, by any manner of means.

Let me suggest to those who propose to guess on PROGRESS' prize problem that the time when they will have to make up their minds is drawing nigh. No lists will be received at this office after July 10.

It was quite warm, last Sunday evening, and the doors of a popular church were open during the sermon. A few ragamuffins were outside and as toward the close of his discourse the minister made a long pause, the suggestive "Put it to first" wafted in and made quite an impression upon a certain portion of the congregation.

I congratulate Capt. G. W. Jones upon his election to the captaincy of the Canadian team. He is a good man and knows how to captain an eleven. I am told that he surprised our boys last Saturday, the way he kept them at their work. His English trip last season gave him lots of points

and I hope that he will give us the benefit of them.

Under the heading, "A New Way to Cure an Old Complaint," the Bicycling News has the following:

Perhaps the following suggestion may be of use to some of our readers. A very common sport with small boys in some parts of England is to throw their caps at a passing cycle, confident in the idea that the rider dare not dismount and leave his machine in order to catch them, or that if he does they will be able to recover their head-gear and make an easy escape. I used to be very much annoyed by this game, in which the odds were all on the side of the small boy, but I have counter-manoeuvred it very successfully of late by training up a "Snark" dog, which usually accompanies me, to pick up the cap and carry it off. The result is great fun. The triumphant insolence with which the cap is thrown, and the change to a howl of abject entreaty when the thrower sees it carried off, and thinks of the thrashing he will probably get from his mother, form a delicious transformation scene—often the best piece of scenery in my ride.

At the seventeenth annual convention of the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen, to be held at Sunbury, Pa., July 18, the following amendment to article 3 of the constitution adopted by the executive committee, May 12, 1888, will be submitted to the clubs for their action in this convention:

We further define an amateur to be one who rows for pleasure or recreation only, and during his leisure hours, and who does not abandon or neglect his usual business or occupation for the purpose of training.

The definition is a good one, and should be adopted.

John L. Sullivan has been tramped on again. Mayor Winslow, of Worcester, Mass., has refused his circus a license to perform in the town. He does not object to a circus, but Mr. Sullivan doesn't meet with his approval.

Appropos of rules here is something from the illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News on racing in the colonies. When the winner has once passed the post no one must touch him on his horse till after the judge has told him to dismount and he is weighed in, and the weighing is done coram publico. Some time since an amateur won a race, and when he returned to the paddock the girl he was engaged to marry presented him with a rose. She had not studied the Rules of Racing; whether he had I do not know, but the unsentimental stewards were on the alert, and the winner was disqualified. On another occasion the favorite won, but the jockey lost his cap in the course of the struggle. The sun was blazing away his fiercest, and when the horse pulled up a sympathetic bookmaker (incidentally, it should be remarked, that he had laid heavily against the winner) went up to the successful jockey, remarked, "You'll have a sunstroke, my boy, if you don't take care—here, put on my hat!" and offered his comfortable Panama. The boy thoughtlessly took it and put it on—and that kindly bookmaker had a good race after the winner had been disqualified and the stakes awarded to the unbacked outsider who finished second.

Jack Sneed, outfielder of the New Orleans club, who has been suspended without pay for a month, has retained eminent counsel, and proposes to make a test case of the matter. The question will be decided whether or not a club has a right to suspend a player and prevent him from earning a livelihood. It is time that it was settled.

JACK AND JILL.

PROGRESS' PRIZE PROBLEM.

A Competition that Gives Base Ball Cranks a Chance to Win Twenty-five Dollars.

Which club of the National Base Ball league will win the championship pennant, this season? In what order will the clubs finish?

Don't you wish you knew? If you did, it would be just \$25 in your pocket.

So many persons have a habit of asking for "points," during the base ball season, that the sporting editor of PROGRESS has decided to turn the tables for once and refer these questions back to the readers of the paper. To stimulate interest in answering them, PROGRESS offers a prize of \$25, to be divided between the successful guessers, under the following conditions:—

- First—All slips must be filled out on blanks published in PROGRESS, one of which will be found below.
- Second—The name and address of every person entering the contest must be written in full on each slip, and no person will be allowed to enter more than one slip.
- Third—SLIPS MAY BE FORWARDED TO THIS OFFICE IMMEDIATELY, AND NONE WILL BE RECEIVED FOR THE LEAGUE SERIES AFTER JULY 10.
- It will be necessary to cut out the slips from PROGRESS. These, when filled and forwarded to the Base Ball Editor of PROGRESS, will be placed on file. At the close of the season the distribution will be made, and the lucky contestants will receive due notice of their success. If there be more than one successful guesser, each will receive an equal share of the \$25.

The League Problem.

1.....
2.....
3.....
4.....
5.....
6.....
7.....
8.....
Name.....
Address.....

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THE Equitable Life Assurance Society.

Condensed Statement, January 1, 1888.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. ASSETS: \$84,378,904 85. LIABILITIES: 66,274,650 00. SURPLUS: \$18,104,254 85. New Assurance: \$138,023,105 00. Outstanding Assurance: 483,029,562 00. Paid Policy Holders in 1887: 10,062,509 81. Paid Policy Holders since organization: 106,610,293 34. Total Income: 23,240,849 29. Premium Income: 19,115,775 47. Increase in Assets: 8,868,432 09. Assets to Liabilities, 127 1-2 per cent.

On the less rigorous standard adopted by the Canadian companies (which assumes that four and one-half per cent. will be realized on investments) the surplus of the Equitable is as follows:— ASSETS: \$84,378,904 85. ESTIMATED LIABILITIES (4 1-2 per cent.): 61,582,000 00. ESTIMATED SURPLUS (4 1-2 p. c.): \$22,796,904 85. Percentage of Assets to Liabilities, 137.

THE VIGOROUS EQUITABLE.—Every year when the Equitable Life Assurance Society presents its big figures in the shape of a report, the remark is made that it will be impossible to repeat the success—and then the Equitable proceeds not only to repeat but to excel it. The results of the business of 1887 are simply enormous. The pivotal fact is that the Equitable has the largest surplus of any of the leading life assurance companies in the world, whether gauged by percentage to liabilities or by the number of dollars and cents. Over eighteen millions are surplus, out of eighty-four millions of assets. This, too, is on the basis of measuring liabilities on the severest standard; that which assumes that no more than 4 per cent. will be obtained as interest on investments throughout the future. Every bit of income in excess of 4 per cent. will be clear gain to the policy-holder, over and above the assumptions. If interest on prime investments should fall to 3 1-2, the Equitable with its big surplus can stand it, when companies with relatively less would be embarrassed.

CHAS. A. MACDONALD, Agent, St. John, N. B. E. W. GALE, Agent, St. John, N. B.

A. W. MASTERS, Jr., Special Agent. A. C. EDWARDS & B. A. FIELDING, Joint General Agents for the Maritime Provinces, Halifax, N. S.

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MAIL CONTRACT.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on 25th July, 1888, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's mails, on a proposed contract for four years, three times per week each way, between St. John, N. B., and Digby or Annapolis, N. S., from the 1st August next.

The conveyance to be made by a seaworthy and commodious passenger steambot of sufficient power and capacity to perform the round trip in twelve hours, including a reasonable detention at Digby and Annapolis for the exchange of mails. The vessel employed in this service to be subject to the approval of the Postmaster General in regard to safety, accommodation for passengers and rate of speed.

The mails to leave St. John on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week at 8 a. m., reaching Digby at 12 noon, or Annapolis at 2 p. m.

Returning, to leave Digby or Annapolis on same days, reaching St. John at 8 p. m.

The mails are to be conveyed between the steamer and the post offices at St. John, Digby and Annapolis at the expense of the contractor.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the post offices at St. John and Halifax and at this office. The Postmaster General will not necessarily accept the lowest or any tender. S. J. KING, Post Office Inspector. Post Office Inspector. St. John, 1st June, 1888.

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Established April 21, 1884, we have doubled our production every year, and today we are making more and better Cigars than any other two factories in the maritime provinces.

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