

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

THE BASE BALL AND TURF GOSSIP OF THE PROVINCES.

Notes and Comments on Local Clubs and Players—Something About the St. John Moncton Games—Base Ball and Horse News from Everywhere.

They were ready for anything in Moncton last Saturday. Poor, honest Jimmie Christie thought he was umpiring his last game. I am glad the weather was cool; as was, 13-11 made it quite sultry.

The opening games of the New Brunswick league were interesting enough to suit anybody. Moncton has been quietly, but surely gathering the finest professionals she can, until today I do not place her second to any maritime nine in anything save her battery.

In this town know just how unsteady that is. "Manny" Robinson may wind the horseshoe around the batter's neck one day and keep him hopping the next to escape broken ribs from wild balls. The home nine are used to him and Tom Bell wants no better luck than to face Robinson just as often as he is in the box. The boys found him in practice and they won't lose him.

I do not dispute Wagg's powers, but remember that he coached our crowd last season. A pluckier, cooler pitcher seldom goes into the box, but such sluggers as Parsons, Small, Rogers, find him too often for a small score.

The Moncton Times commenting upon the acquisition of another professional by Fredericton, says that the Celestial city has five to their four! Let me count. Robinson one, Webster two, Soule three, Wagg four, Larabee five. The Times' arithmetic is out.

My authority (one of the managing committee of provincial league club) for the statement that St. John gets nothing for her grounds when Moncton plays Fredericton here, was wrong. The grounds get the usual third, and in no game are the grand stand receipts divided.

The amateur league is furnishing lots of surprise parties for the cranks, and Monday proved the greatest of all. The Thistles never imagined they were going to lose that game and put in one of their weakest teams. They outplayed their opponents at every point, having 14 base hits to the West End's 3, but luck was against them and they lost.

Umpire Melville got enough abuse after that game to last the season. It's a wonder he wouldn't take a tumble and resign. There has been nothing but kicking since the series began and Monday it was very vigorous.

The Shamrocks have two great workers in Kelly and Donovan. They are earning their salaries and making lots of friends. With the recent additions the team will soon be in a position to put up ball that will draw crowds every time. It was encouraging to see the way some of the boys batted in that first game with the Portlands, and Costigan showed his friends that he hasn't forgotten where to find the ball. But then the score shows that the work was done by the big four—Kelly, Donovan, McNamara and McGrath.

Mr. Shafford has returned from Halifax, and says there are seven horses coming from that city to take part in the carnival races. That's a good showing.

The prospects for fine racing, a good regatta, and great base ball and cricket are splendid. I cannot imagine a better programme for sport, and all we can pray for now is fine weather.

The great Toronto cricketers will have lots to do to outfield our boys. They may be surer batters and more skilful bowlers, but St. John is always there on sharp fielding.

The Boston directors might as well make up their minds just as fast that this year is weak in the box and now is the proper time to strengthen up. John Clarkson is all right, but even he often complains of a lame shoulder and might break down at any moment. Charley Radburn is not in good fix, and it's hard to say when he will be. Madden is doing good work, but the boy is not strong and is likely to slow up toward the last of a long contest. Billy Sanders did good work last season, but up to the present has been very wild and lacks the courage necessary to go in and win games. Even if these men were in good condition one more first-class pitcher would come in handy before the season is over, if the pennant fight is to be to the bitter end. A few dollars, and a little hustling can accomplish considerable in the way of strengthening the team, and the public are ripe to appreciate just such a turn.—Boston Globe.

The admirers of the home team anxiously watched every movement made by Mike Kelly to see if he had grown slow since they saw him in fine shape three weeks ago. When the captain was put out on a slow throw in trying for second, the universal opinion was that a little morning run, the same as he was fond of taking early in the spring, would not be amiss, as it might give him to his old base-running form.—Boston Globe.

An annual athletic meeting will be held in connection with the summer carnival, in Halifax, the programme of which will comprise the following events:

100 yard run, handicap; 220 yard run, handicap; 440 yard run, handicap; 880 yard run, handicap; 1 mile run, handicap; 3 mile walk, handicap; putting shot, handicap; pole vault, handicap; running high jump, handicap; running broad jump, handicap; 440 yards run, handicap, open to competitors under 21; 1 mile bicycle, handicap; 1/2 mile bicycle, handicap; 5 mile bicycle, handicap. The games will be held on the grounds of the Wanderers A. A. club, and will be under the exclusive management of the Maritime Provinces A. A. Association, and will be conducted according to its rules. The prizes will be handsome gold and silver medals. The games are open to all bona fide amateurs. Competitors not members of recognized amateur athletic clubs may be required to furnish credentials of amateur standing. All competitors will be required to furnish with the entry a record in the last three events in which they competed. The executive of the association reserve the power to alter the above programme and to refuse any entry. Entries to be made with the secretary of the association, F. H. Bell, 101 Hollis street, on or before 26th July.

In answer to a fellow Indianapolis clergyman Rev. H. A. Cleveland thus referred to base ball in one of his sermons.

Many people in this city are dying of overwork, the pressure of cares and indoor habits. If they may not play base ball or see it played because a convention forbids it, what may they do that will take them into the fields and unharmed them from their burdens and drudgeries? Against such games there is no word spoken in the New Testament. Paul had witnessed many games not so healthful as our great American game, and makes frequent mention of what he saw as illustrations of the Christian life. It is no objection to base ball as a game because men gamble in its issues. Men gamble in wheat and corn and flower, in stocks and human labor, but bread is won and we shall keep on eating it without respect to those who gamble in it. I have played hundreds of games of base ball myself and devoutly regarded them as means of grace. There is health in exercise and in the laughing summer fields. That is a defective piety that has not health behind it. Let those in our midst who are noisy and bitter in their denunciations of base ball as a game provide our pale and weary clerks with recreations and amusements that are as inexpensive, as pleasurable, and as healthful. Until they do this their phrase is wiser than their speech.

Mr. C. R. Bell, proprietor of Meadow stud farm in Nova Scotia, is a great admirer of the Almont and Wilkes blood, and contends that it is the most prepotent blood bred for the breeding public. He is a great believer in Allie Gray as a stock getter, and thinks him the best in the maritime provinces. He is prepared to back his get in four races to be trotted in Halifax in October, for \$100 each race.

Smokers will not fail to try the "National" Havana Cigars, and Virginia Tobaccos. The best in town.

CARNIVAL BALL IN HALIFAX.

What the Clubs are Doing—Games of the Future.

HALIFAX, N. S., July 16.—Judging from the opening game of the series for the Spaulding pennant trophy, the games will be more interesting than at first supposed. It is to be regretted the feeling which has prevailed between Halifax and St. John should have prevented the former from being represented in this series, as had there been the same feeling towards each other as there were a few years ago, when the Nationals and Socials met on the same diamond, I have no doubt the St. John athletic nine, or the gentleman who secured this pennant for the New Brunswick clubs, would have been pleased to have them competing. If the Socials were in the series, they would have to practice more than they are now doing. It is seldom that the whole team appears at practice, and the amount of team work they do can readily be imagined.

There is great rivalry between the two teams which play here carnival week—the Juno. P. Lovells and Woven Hose of Boston. In the three games they have played against each other this season, the Woven Hose has won them all, but by a narrow margin in each instance. In the last game, I observe, the Lovells blame the umpire for their defeat. A friend writes me from Boston that the Woven Hose have a colored man playing in the field for them, and says he is a good one.

The Ottawa base ball club are negotiating for dates about the end of July. They will visit St. John if they will make the trip.

The idea of reorganizing the old Atlanta nine has been abandoned for the present season, but I would not be surprised if some admirers of this nine did not do some active work during the winter, and that they will have a strong nine next season.

The Moncton team will visit Halifax as soon as arrangements can be made for a game. Their recent games with St. John will cause great interest in the games. Wagg and Robinson are old favorites here, while Soule has a great many admirers.

GOSSIP OF THE TURF.

Races in St. John and Halifax—The Suggestion to Improve the Circuit.

HALIFAX, July 16.—The St. John Agricultural society have made a wise move in making the conditions of the St. John stakes for half breeds to carry weight for age, and thoroughbreds ten pounds extra. This is somewhat similar to the custom with running races in the provinces some years ago, when thoroughbreds were obliged to carry seven pounds extra. Running horses are becoming so scarce in the provinces that this scheme will likely have to be adopted by all tracks offering purses for winners. With a good purse for such a race, Yorktown, Emisary, Emeline, Yardley, Strabismus, Lily, Stag, Ida Grey, and May Queen are among the horses likely to participate in such a race.

There is likely to be an exciting running race here this fall between three stallions which have made the season in the province Barry Woods, the owner of Strabismus, son of Alarm; Mr. M. F. Fridge, the owner of Emisary, by Equifer, and Mr. Robinson, the owner of the English stallion Yardley. Each have a high opinion of the merits of their horses and a sweepstakes between them is on the tapis.

We are to have a handicap trot here July 27. These races were introduced into the province by Mr. T. C. Mahon, of Truro, who witnessed quite a number of them while in Europe. The horses are handicapped, and the race takes place in heats. Four to six starts in each heat, which are 1 1/2 miles each, the first and second in each starting in the final heats, which are best two in three. The horses are all placed on their marks at the start, and are started by a gun.

The suggestion made by you to arrange the circuit so as to allow horses making records before the opening of the circuit not to be a bar to their respective classes, is worthy of consideration. But I think next year there will be a change in the rule allowing a horse to go through the circuit in the same class. Of course, a great deal depends upon the way the rule works this year, but at the present time track directors and owners of horses of average speed are greatly opposed thereto. The fact that Nova Scotia opens the circuit made no difference to this season, hence they were quite content to acquiesce with the New Brunswick tracks.

The circuit is attracting great attention by the notice in American sporting papers and the distribution of folders among horsemen. Letters of inquiry are coming to hand, and a Maine horseman writes for particulars, expressing a desire to enter two horses in the circuit. He will receive an abundance of information.

C. R. Bell, of Biltown, N. S., whose farm and horses have already been described in PROGRESS, is out with a bold challenge. He is a great believer in his Almont stallion, Allie Gray, as a stock getter, and thinks him the best in the maritime provinces. He is prepared to match his get in four races, to be trotted in Halifax in October, for \$100 each race, yearlings, two-year-olds, three-year-olds and four-year-olds, yearlings to be half-mile heats, against the get, same ages, of any stallion in the maritime provinces, or he will add a five-year-old and trot those ages against the get of any and all stallions owned now or previously in any stock farm in the maritime provinces.

TURF GOSSIP FROM EVERYWHERE.

Compiled by "Progress" St. Croix Correspondent—Recent Events on the Track.

About a year ago Jim Gray, of Milltown, Me., bought a black horse out of a truck team from F. Todd and Son for \$125, or thereabouts, and as he was a double-gaited fellow not much notice was taken of him. This spring Jas. Egan took hold of him and after shoeing and weighting him he has the satisfaction of driving one of the speediest trotting horses in his vicinity. He showed a mile in 2:37 last week, the quarter in 35 1/4, half in 1:16, and all sorts of rumors are ripe. Some are that he can trot a quarter in 32 seconds and a mile in 2:25; others that he can trot a quarter in 34 sec., but that he is a rank quitter and cannot trot two miles in 2:40. Be that as it may, you will have a chance to see for yourself, as I believe he is to be started in St. John carnival week, and people can then draw their own conclusions. This wonder is a black horse, seven years old, breeding unknown, and about 15.3 hands high, very high spirited, of the rakish gamut pattern and would be bought for his beauty. Mr. Gray has been offered \$750 for him. He may be a quitter, but for a horse what has had the driving and abuse he has for the past year, must have a constitution of iron. He wears 20 oz. in front, and his way of going is said to be perfection, but it is the extreme speed that kills and the weight and speed may wear him out at the half, so that a hack might beat him home.

C. H. Eaton's stallion won a race at Brockton, Mass., last week, in an easy manner in 2:27 best heat, and Seward starts him at Mystic this week in the 2:35 and 2:30 classes.

At Cleveland, O., on July 10th, Col. Edwards bet Mr. Gordon, owner of Guy, \$1 that Guy could beat his record that afternoon of 2:12, which Mr. Gordon readily accepted. Millard Saunders drove Guy two slow miles in 2:25 and 2:32, and then sent him on his latest and most accurate foreign and local base ball news at the "National," the ball tosser's retreat.

CARNIVAL REGATTA

The following is the programme of the CARNIVAL REGATTA, as submitted for the 27th inst.:

1---Sloop Race: 1st prize, \$65; 2nd prize, \$20; 3rd, boat to save entrance fee. Entrance fee, \$3.

2---Amateur Single Sculls. Distance one mile and a half, with turn. Prize, medal to winner.

3---Amateur Canoe Race. Distance, one mile, with turn. Prize, pair of paddles.

4---Fisherman's Race, with Net. Distance, one mile, with turn. 1st prize, \$30; 2nd prize, \$15. Entrance fee, \$2.

5---Professional Single Sculls. Distance, three miles with turn. 1st prize, \$40; 2nd prize, \$15. Entrance fee, \$5.

6---Amateur Four Oars. Distance, three miles with turn, irrigated boats. Prize medal to each member of winning crew.

7---Canoe Race, open to Indians only. Distance, one mile with turn. 1st prize, \$10; 2nd prize, \$5; 3rd prize, \$3.

8---Professional Four Oars. Distance, three miles with turn, irrigated boats. 1st prize, \$100; 2nd prize, \$30; 3rd boat to save entrance fee. Entrance fee, \$5.

No second prize will be given in any race unless more than two boats compete, and no third prize unless more than three compete.

Entries may be made by letter, or personally, between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m. any day with Mr. W. E. Vroom, 105 Prince Wm. street, and between 7 and 8 p.m. July 24th, at which hour they will close. Further information will be furnished by J. W. DANIEL, Chairman. A. D. WETMORE, Secretary.

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E. J. SHELDON, (Special) ST. JOHN, N. B. J. B. MCALPINE, (Agents).

For further particulars see our Time Tables with map of river. R. B. HUMPHREY, Manager, Office at wharf, Indian town; Special Agency at H. Chubb & Co's, Prince Wm. street.

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To the Electors of the City of Saint John.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

A vacancy having been created in the Chief Magistracy of this City, by the lamented death of the late Mayor, Mr. GEORGE A. BARKER, I beg to announce that I will be a candidate for the office of

MAYOR,

OF ST. JOHN, at the election which is shortly to be held.

T. W. PETERS.

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2.45 and 2.28 classes. Purses \$150 and \$250 respectively. Reserved for special purse \$150. Entries close August 16, with D. McDEARMID, Secretary.

TRURO, N. S., - - - September 3 and 4.

First day, 3 minute class. Purses \$150, and 2.37 class, purse \$200. Second day, 2.45 class, purse \$150, and 2.28 class, purse \$250. Reserved for special purse \$150. Entries close August 27 with J. C. MABON, Secretary.

MONCTON, N. B., - - - September 7.

2.45 and 2.28 classes. Purses \$150 and \$250 respectively. Reserved for special purse \$150. Entries close September 2 with M. LODGE, Secretary.

ST. STEPHEN, N. B., September 18 and 19.

First day, 3 minute class, purse \$150, and 2.37 class, purse \$200. Second day, 2.45 class, purse \$150, and 2.28 class, purse \$250. Reserved for special purse \$150. Entries close September 11 with JAS. E. OSBORNE, Secretary.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., Oct. 2 and 3.

First day, 3 minute class, purse \$150, and 2.37 class, purse \$200. Second day, 2.45 class, purse \$150, and 2.28 class, purse \$250. Reserved for special purse \$150. Entries close September 25 with A. E. WARBURTON, Secretary.

CONDITIONS.

All races will be to harness, mile heats 3 in 5, and governed by rules of National Trotting Association. Entries to be made with the secretaries of the various tracks for the races thereon. Entrance fee, 10 per cent. of the purses, payable 5 per cent. with nomination, and 5 per cent. the evening before the race. Five to enter, and three to start. Should five entries not make the final payments, the race may be declared off, unless the remaining entries make up the balance of the amount. A horse distancing the field will be entitled to first money only.

Horses STARTING IN THE CIRCUIT WILL BE ELIGIBLE IN THE SAME CLASS THROUGHOUT THE CIRCUIT.

Purses will be divided: 60 per cent. to first; 30 per cent. to second, and 10 per cent. to third.

Negotiations are being made to have United States horses admitted in bond, to attend the races, and race series.

Arrangements will be made for special passenger and freight rates on the various lines of travel.

For further information address either the undersigned, or the secretaries of the different tracks.

W. F. TODD, Esq., President, St. Stephen, N. B. A. A. STERLING, Vice-President, Esq., Fredericton, N. B.

JAS. W. POWER, Secretary, Halifax, N. S.

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