SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

THE BASE BALL AND TURF GOSSIP OF THE PROVINCES.

Notes and Comments on Local Clubs and Players - Some of the Ways in Which small and Plummer Differ-What the Amateurs are Doing.

Some time ago a city ball crank tried to convince me that the interest in base ball was declining in St. John. I grinned at him then, and laugh at him now. Seven thousand people at four games in one day and the interest declining! But that makes me weary.

I was in Fredericton Monday, and my second and third sights saw the city ball games. They had the best of it, for while I groaned at muffs and errors enough to spoil one score book, they saw two games that have never been equalled in the city. The St. John's with their dandy amateur battery, White and Kennedy, broke the great record of the Presumpscots (6-5,) and the Shamrock's new grounds, new players and new battery held the Bostonian St. Stephens-who forced last year's Nationals to a tenth inning-down to a total score of 5, with only two base hits off Kelly. Their own score was 3.

The home teams went to pieces in the afternoon, the Shamrocks getting whitewashed, 10-0, and the St. Johns, with Small and Rogers as battery, going under, 10-7.

that Small was batted freely and hard.

But he gave no man his base on balls, and if you had been with me and watched Plummer of the way, you would appreciate Small's work.

It is worth a lung to face Plummer, of Houlton, who doesn't seem to care where the ball goes, whether in the pitchers claws or in the batters' bread

Thayer the left handed pitcher of the Frederictons, did not impress me as a twirling wonder. There is lots of show about him, and the shapes he makes when in the box are enough to scare an ordinary

Considerable interest is being taken in the amateur league games, and the clubs are showing up better than most of the cranks expected. Now that games are being played on the Shamrocks' grounds, I look forward to more enthusiasm and a boom at the financial end.

The way the La Tours acted Wednesday struck field, with all sorts of uniforms and no signs of organization, isn't going to help the league along. If the La Tours are not able to put a regular nine on the field and play the games scheduled, the sooner they drop out the better.

The game Wednesday was not without interest, but it was only because the Thistles put in a poor battery in the first innings. Give us good, honest ball or none at all.

There was considerable kicking at some of Umpire Melville's decisions, and Ritchie, who appears to be a very windy young man when he gets among amateurs, came very near being fined. Somebody suggested to me that another umpire be chosen to watch the bases, so as to let Mr. Melville give all his attention to balls and strikes. This seems to be as much as he is capable of attending to, just yet; but perhaps experience will learn him something.

I hear that Mitchell wants the Franklins to pay him \$2 a game. This is very funny. If he don't play any better ball than he has been doing for the Franklins, I would not be surprised to hear of him being requested to leave. I should think Mitchell would find playing with the Franklins good practice if he intends playing with the St. Johns.

I believe the managers have some difficulty in getting their tenth man to sit on the player's bench, but why they should is beyond my comprehension. The tenth man should be as good as any player on the field and usually is.

The amateur league is very representative. There are players in it from all over the county, but it strikes me that Carleton is a rather bad place to have the treasurer located, especially when he cannot attend every game. What's the matter with having one person secretary-treasurer. The business of the league hardly requires two such officers, and from what I hear from outside parties, the change would be a good one.

I heard a very amusing story the other day, which is too good to keep. The manager of a St. John club wrote to the Moncton Electrics, asking what they would be willing to give for a game there. The manager of the Electrics, who is a wholesale grocer, and should be well posted on railway rates, etc., sent word that if the St. John club paid its own ex-\$25. Just think of it. The fare to Moncton would cost the team something like \$32-and then their board bill! And Moncton stops business to see a ball game!

George Carvill paid- his \$25 fine, withdrew his suit and trotted Lady Max at Fredericton. He came to a wise decision.

The St. John horses contributed much of the fun at the races in Fredericton. The audience was worth about \$200, enough to cover expenses and a programme and get left.

If St. Stephen's weather compared with ours so that one trip will suffice for both games.

Power. Thursday, the horsemen there must have been dis-

President John Johnson, of the Agricultural society manages to be present at most of the races. He was in Fredericton Monday, and Thursday went to St. Stephen.

I call attention with considerable satisfaction to the attractive announcement of the maritime province trotting circuit in this issue. What a grand aggregate of purses, \$6,500! Nothing like it was ever offered to horsemen before, and if I am no mistaken, this is but the beginning.

The trotter is gaining a firmer footing every year in the provinces. Even Nova Scotia, which favored runners for so long to the exclusion of the trotter, has come around and gives the latter an equal

There have been meetings in every town of importance in the provinces this year. Moncton has had two and St. John advertises a second one in the grand carnival programme presented this week. Even Woodstock, where trotting did not receive as | as if they changed for one applicant, there would be warm a support as it should have last year, has tried scores of applications from others, which they again this season.

Thirteen hundred dollars-\$1300 !- in purses for one would mean the greatest displeasure to others. meeting is the banquet offered horsemen at Moose-

J. W. MONTGOMERY

The "National" Dining rooms are the best in town. Dinners from 12 to 2. Choice lunc'ies at all hours.

path during carnival time. A great feast to be sure. Here are the courses : Wednesday, July 24: 3-minute class, Purse, \$150.

2.40 class, Purse, \$200. Thursday, July 25: 2.45 class, Purse, \$150. Freefor-all, Purse, \$250. Running races for provincial horses, citizens' cup, valued at \$150, and entrance maney divided.

Fishing.

Mr. A. U. Hanson and H. V. McLaughlin recently enjoyed a fish at Skiff lake, where they were the guests of Mr. Miles Moore and party.

BALL GOSSIP IN HALIFAX.

What the Haligonians are Doing on the Diamond.

HALIFAX, July 3 .- The defeat of the St. John nine by the Gardiners has caused many Haligon ians to be more anxious than ever for a game between the Socials and the St. John team, as they feel that the victory of the visitors confirms their opinions that the Haligonians have a stronger nine than St. John. They of course think the St. John people will say that it was the bad fielding of their the heavy batting of the visitors, as in the several games they played in the provinces they showed themselves to be exceptionably strong in stick work. In this city, they batted Davison in a manner which no other club has ever 'done here, at Moncton, they batted the former St. John representatives, with telling effect, Soule making two home runs, and at St. John 15 hits were scored against Had our boys given their star battery any your best pitcher Parsons, while they made four adequate support the result would have been dif- earned runs to one by the St. John team. It is ferent. That does not however disguise the fact this latter fact that Haligonians point to, and which makes them feel that it was their batting that beat | Stanford 2.30, and Marion 2.26%, at Rapa, Cal., the St. John nine. Flynn was the only pitcher whom they met in the provinces, that they did not bat. They got but three hits off his delivery, Houltons invite twelve men to the first bag in this and did not earn a run. Haligonians base ballists do not think the St. John team is stronger than last season, while the Socials are greatly strengthened, and with Flynn in perfect form and under favorable circumstances, they feel they can score a victory, as with White playing regularly behind the bat, Doyle at second, and Davison at short, they have a strong team.

In comparing last year's St. John team with that of the present season, Haligonians do not think Parsons is as good a pitcher as Robinson. During the past two seasors they have always had difficulty in batting Robinson, while in the Colby game Parsons was batted for 14 bases with a total of 17, the Socials winning the game, 11 to 0. Then Small is not considered to be Wagg's equal as the latter played last season, judging from his record in the games he has pitched for your team. Rogers is looked upon as the only real improvement, and on the whole they estimate the team to be not any stronger than last year. As I have already stated, our base ballists think their team is much better than last summer, and are therefore anxious to see a game between the me as being rather mean. Placing a scrub nine on two clubs. As to my own opinion, I might say base

ball is an uncertain game. It is hoped that the \$100 matter will not interfere with bringing the meeting about. As I understand the matter, the socials had nothing to do with the arrangement, which I heard one of the Atlantas who brought the team here, say they are quite willing to pay the amount as soon as the Nationals fulfill their contract. They state they went to St. John to play two games, and although they claim the umpiring could not have been worse, they remained the second day, according do their agreement, and played the two games, but the Nationals came here with the understanding to play two games, and they were to receive \$100 for expenses, but because the Nationals were not satisfied with the umpiring, they would not play the second game, but played in Truro instead on the day they had agreed to play in Halifax. I do not know whether this member of the Atlantas could speak with authority; he said that when the St. John team came to Halifax and played the other game they would receive their \$100, but not before, as far as they were concerned.

"Home Plate" says that record "ought to settle the little dispute," and it certainly does. If I am not mistaken, as in these days both sides had to play equal innings. In this game the Atlantas did not have their turn at the bat in the ninth innings, and when the game was called, on account of darkness, after the Mutuals had made three runs, the score reverted to the previous inning, making the score 9

to 5.

The arrangements for base ball for carnival week, August 5 to 10, have all been made. The committee offer ten gold medals as first prize and ten silver medals as second prize for an amateur base ball tournament, open to amateur clubs from any place desiring to enter. There will be professional games on August 5, 6, 7 and 8. The games on the first two days will be between the Jno. P. Lovells and Woven Hose teams, of Boston, and should one of these clubs win two games, the Socials will play against that club on the third day, and on the following day with the other club. Should the clubs win one game each on the first two days, another arrangement will be made. The Woven Hose and Lovells teams have played close games this season, and the Socials have made all arrangements to have them

The amateur league here this season is a great success, as three of the four clubs in the league are now ties for first place. Saturday's game between the Y. M. L. A. and the Standards was most interesting, as a large amount of money was wagered on penses, the Electrics would be willing to give them | the result. Gleeson, the old St. John Mayer, accepted six chances out of seven at third, making two fine catches near the stand, and his quick work in one innings resulted in a double play. His catch in the last innings was a difficult one, and ended the game, when there were three men on bases. He leads the third basemen of the amateur league. In the seven games the Socials have had with the Lewistons, Portlands, Bates College and Gardiners,

Flynn has a batting average of .416. The St. John cricket club have made arrangements to play the Wanderers in this city on August 14 and 15. They play the Garrison August 12 and little something to good. I am glad of this for it is | 13. The Wanderers are endeavoring to have their poor satisfaction to any association to prepare a game in St. John take place early in August or the two days following the match between the Toronto club and the maritime province eleven at St. John,

HORSE GOSSIP FROM HALIFAX.

The Fast Class in the Circuit Will Remain

at 2.28-Why It Wasn't Changed. HALIFAX, July 3 .- The proposed change of the fast class in the circuit from 2.28 to 2.27 will not be made. It will be remembered that Mr. Wheelder of Bangor, wrote requesting the change for his horse Elmo, 2.2714, but when it was shown that there was no necessity as Elmo was eligible, the folders were printed. All the track were willing to make the change if it would give them additional enteries in every class, if it was necessary to suit Elmo, but one, and the secretary of that track objected. Mr. Wheelder has since written that it was not for Elmo he wanted the class changed, but for Octavius, who has a record of 2.2614, but the change will not be made owing to the folders now being printed, and besides the tracks not being unanimous. The gentleman who objected said to me he did not see the necessity of having a meeting to make arrangements in the winter, if we were to change them afterwards, and if the class were changed, it would be establishing a bad predecent,

If this change was made he knew ot a Latest and most accurate foreign and local base ball news at the "National," the ball tosser's retreat

would have to grant in consequence of this prece-

dent, and while causing satisfaction to some, it

man in the provinces who would apply for a change in one of the other classes, and would guarantee entries at all the meetings. But this question of classes had been thoroughly discussed at the St. John meeting, and the classes then made should be adhered to. Mr. Wheelder stated in his letter he would give entries in each class, but this gentleman said that before the circuit opened Mr. Wheelden might not be able to have his horses here, and then the change would have been made without any benefit to the track, and causing dissatisfaction among the owners of provincial horses. He thought that, taking all these matters into consideration, it would be much better for the interests of all concerned to allow the classes to remain as decided upon. The folders are being sent this week to the secretaries of the various tracks for distribution. Posters are being printed and an advertisement appears in Progress, giving full particulars, so that the circuit will be thoroughly advertised.

Your St. Stephen correspondent says "DeBarry s the one horse that caused the Nova Scotia repreentatives to the maritime circuit to kick against the free for all and substitute a 2.28 class." Your correspondent is rather too broad in his statement. as "DeBarry was not the one horse the Nova Scotia representatives kicked against," while it was a renine that lost the game, but Haligonians think it was | presentative from the other province who styled the horse "an old thief."

The three year old mare Florence by Oxmoor, owned by A. B. Etter, of Amherst, recently gave birth to a filly by Sir Nutwood, son of Nutwood,

TURF GOSSIP FROM EVERYWHERE.

Compiled by "Progress" St. Croix Correspondent-Recent Events on the Track. It is said that Piedmont will make his mark as a sire this year as he already has two in the '30 list,

The fast Dart, by Dr. Franklin, has been sent to Turner's stable to be given a record. Dart has trotted quarters in '31, and halves in 1.03, and

should be one of the fastest Knoxes alive. Elmbrook, four-years old, by Hambletonian Chief, got a record of 2.2614, at Lewiston, Me., in the '35 class. Elmbrook now holds the two-year old record (2.42) and the 4 year old record of the State of Maine.

At Canton, Me., last week, Palm, by Messenger Wilkes, won the two-year old colt race easily in 2.52, trotting the last quarter in '3614 seconds, a '25 clip. Pretty good for a young fellow, but he is a The only horse that has beaten 2.20 this year

trotting, is the bay horse White Stockings. At Terre Haute, Ind., he trotted to beat the best time in the State made by Arab of 2.18, and won, doing the trick in '1714. Griffin, of the Turf, Field and Farm, says:

Some people remain in ignorance of the fact that time made at three quarters of a mile is a bar at a mile. At Moncton, N. B., May 24, there was a colt race, three-quarter mile heats, and Bradalbane Boy won a heat in 2.18, and Maud F. one in 2.13. If these colts grow up to be fast, it will astonish their owners to find that they cannot be entered on first-class tracks except in the free-for-all.

There may be some kicking among the good people in Moncton over this statement, and some may doubt it, but it is true, nevertheless, and it is about time the sporting people of Moncton had their eyes open, as they have been salted twice in good style that I know of. And after they get caught a few more times they will think that perhaps they did not know it all.

The American Derby, run at Chicago, June 22, was one of the most exciting and over \$1,000,000 changed hands. Proctor Knott cut out the running and led into the home stretch, when Kiley brought the Montana blizzard, Spokane, through, winning easily. Sorrento, Proctor Knott, Don Jose and Long Dance came after. The followers of Spokame went wild with delight, and he was given champagne to drink and was washed with the choicest white rose and jockey club perfumes and dried out with silk towels. The Montana boys seem to appreciate a good thing.

It is said that an eastern horseman has gone to California to buy Stamboul for a N. E. stock farm. At Jonesville, Wis., in the .16 pacing race, after two heats had been paced in .17% and .17%, a veterinary advised Splan to draw El Monarch, who finished sixth and seemed very much distressed, but the wily Splan could not see the point and won

the next three heats and race in .18%, .17%, .19. Nelson's Ambine by Young Rolfe, won the .25 class at Charter Oak, Hartford, Conn., last Thursday, winning the third, fourth and fifth heats. Frank S. won the first two in .22, .2314, and Ambine dropped hers in .2214, .24, .2214. Nelson said he had three he would put in the .20 list this year and he comes pretty near knowing what he is talking about. It looks as though Nelson's Dictator Chief

and Aubine would do the trick. Badge won a mile race at Sheepshead Bay, last week, running the mile with 115 pounds up, in 1.40. Horsemen claim it to be the best performance on record by a running horse, although Ten Broeck ran a mile in 1.39%, with 110 up, over a speciallyprepared track, against time, which is still the best

At Huntington, N. Y., they gave a silver cup for the fastest walking horse, and Bessie A. Gray won it, walking a mile in 4.15. The fastest mile a man has ever run is just a few seconds faster than Bessie's

It is said that Marvin will give two yearlings'

records of better than '30 this year. Forester writes me as follows:

I took advantage of a brief stay at Auburn, Me., took advantage of a brief stay at Auburn, Me., to visit Maple Grove Stock Farm, owned by Messrs. B. F. and F. H. Briggs (father and son). It is a short drive from the Elm House, and I found it an agreeable one, seated behind Mr. Briggs favorite road horse. As we jogged along over an excellent road and through a delightful country land, undulating and in a high state of cultivation, the houses and outbuildings in sight are substantial giving lating and in a high state of cultivation, the houses and outbuildings in sight are substantial, giving ample evidence of thrift and prosperity. Arriving at my destination, I found the home of the Messrs. Briggs is a modern house with well kept walks and drive way to commodious stables provided for their stock. A thrifty orchard, extensive fields, with grass at that time well advanced; about 75 acres altogether under cultivation, and about 200 acres in pasture for the stock. While well pleased with the exterior of the buildings, the splendid landscape spread before me, there was to me a decided acquisition to the seene in the appearance of young Mr. spread before me, there was to me a decided acquisition to the seene in the appearance of young Mr. Briggs, seated in a road cart behind a grand looking horse. It was my first sight of Messenger Wilkes. An invitation to join in a ride was quickly accepted, and we were very soon on their half-mile track, where I got out to have a better chance to watch the horse in motion. Without delay he was sent at or near his speed. He wore no boots, carried 12 ozs. shoes, forward moved with a pure open gait behind, and a trifle more action forward than I like, but it would trouble me to name a more resolute. gamer and a trifle more action forward than I like, but it would trouble me to name a more resolute, gamer moving horse. As I watched his strong way of going on the turns, and this determined rushes when given his head on the stretches, it was easy to realize there is a race horse as as well as a trotter. Prince Wilkes, 2.14%, by the same sire as Messenger Wilkes, is noted for his bull dog, and the two horses in motion resemble each other. It is rare to see a better ear than is on Prince Wilkes, and Messenger Wilkes has a clear cut, good-shaped ear. To me there is a lot of chrracter in the ear, as expressed by the manner it is carried by a horse in motion or at speed. lot of chrracter in the ear, as expressed by the manner it is carried by a horse in motion or at speed. In about the time required to write this slight digression, Messenger Wilkes was brought from speed to a stand still by a moderate pressure on the bit, then his driver dropped the lines, jumped out, adjusted a portion of the harness—the horse, meanwhile stood like a statue. By request, I drove him, just to feel of his mouth. It was splendid. A light touch, a slight change of the bit in his sensitive, responsive mouth, and he was at speed, and as readily brought to a jog. The methods adopted in the breaking and handling of this horse were excellent, but it is evident that he had intelligence, and a level head as well. On arrival at his stable, and in a good, roomy box-stall, I examined him carefully and with a growing interest. He is a rich bay in color, stands 15.3 hands high, is a substantial, smooth, trained horse, true in his proportions, well finished, and remarkably well muscled, especially at his stifles. His joints are good, and he has the best of feet. Combined with an almost faultless confirmation, is a fine disposition, kind and clever in or out of the stable, resolute and fearless, also stylish in harness. After a heavy season in the stud, with only four weeks' preparation, he trotted over a half-mile track, last year, as a five-year-old, ner it is carried by a horse in motion or at speed.

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

a mile in '29¼, which is his record. While he is great individually, in breeding he is gilt-edged. His sire, Red Wilkes (a son of the great George Wilkes), has 20 in the '30 list, including Prince Wilkes, '14½; Repetition, '21 as a three-year-old, and Phil Thompson, 2.16¼. Messenger's dam trotted as a four-year-old in '30¼, and is by Messenger Chief, sire of Maud Messenger, '16¼, and 4 more in the '30 list. After looking at some of the get of Messenger Wilkes, it is easy to believe that as a sire he will prove a success. Those shown by him were goodgaited, solid in color, very similar in shape with the general characteristics of their sire. Palm, a two-year-old, who holds the yearling record, 3.12½, for New England, is a grand looking youngster, of good size, with plenty of substance, is shapely, and when it is thought advisable to have him shown this season there will be a creditable performance. He will do his own talking. Jim Gray, another two year old, by Wilkes, is a compact, servicable looking colt, good enough in breeding and individually to be at the head of most any stock farm. Doubtless, within a few years, well-bred sons of Messenger Wilkes will be in demand for stock purposes. Sir William, a two-year old colt, is a symmetrical, highly finished youngster, with the substance of his sire. His dam is a full sister to Nelson, and he resembles Nelson about the head and neck. I was greatly pleased with the three-year old colt, Ben V., a full brother to Messenger Wilkes, and very much like him in size, color, gait, conformation and disposition; is possibly a trifle better finished and travels closer to the ground forward. I will say more about this fellow at another visit to the farm, having arranged for a visit at an early date finished and travels closer to the ground forward. I will say more about this fellow at another visit to the farm, having arranged for a visit at an early date chiefly to ride behind him. As a yearling he trotted in 3.00½. Rockafellar, by Electioneer, is at the farm. It is not my intention to refer further to him at present, but shall at some fature time.

The broodmares on the farm are a good lot. A three-year old filly, by a son of Prescott, and now in foal to Rockafellar, was harnessed. A more elastic or better gaited one never came under my observation. I cannot close without referring to two very tion. I cannot close without referring to two very promising yearlings that were shown to halters. Both can show the stride and way of going that promises to make trotters. The Messrs. Briggs are gentlemen with advanced ideas on breeding, are both practical and their methods are evidently the esult of experience and intelligent observation. With the means at their disposal, and such horses to work with as they own, their success as breeders is

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