

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

THE BASE BALL AND TURF GOSSIP OF THE PROVINCES.

Notes and Comments on Local Clubs and Players, and Events Not Found in the Reports of the Game-Horse News From Everywhere.

I am sure that every true lover of good, reputable ball playing has heard with keen regret of the recent disgraceful scenes on ball fields at Bangor and Moncton. If they are repeated there can be no doubt but that they will affect seriously the base ball of the future, and with good reason. I disclaim any partisanship when the question is that of conduct on the diamond. I hold that no player or club has any right to make himself obnoxious, in any way, to other players or to the spectators; but the players are not alone in guarding their conduct; a spectator pays for seeing a game of ball—good or bad, he takes the chances—and not for the privilege of shouting slang, of gambling, or running down the umpire. He is permitted to applaud, but has no right to interfere in the decisions of the game. Too often the disturbance on a ball field is begun by some hot-headed and impulsive friends of the players who do not agree with the umpire in some decision. The excitement spreads, the entire stand becomes excited, and instead of cool and impartial spectators are rabid, shouting partisans; the players feel the injustice, lose their temper and the mischief is done. Hot, inconsiderate words and, too often, offensive language follows, and the grand stand is now indignant and insulted at what it has really provoked.

I do not think our city has any more regard for Bangor than a careless friendliness, and we were not affected at the outbreak there which, I believe, really was caused by grand stand toughs. The fracas extended to the players and an excited argument followed. The feeling between the clubs was not cordial at the time, but off the diamond all was forgotten. It is different with Moncton, and I am sorry for it. From the first game played there by the St. Johns to the present time, a bitter feeling has existed. Impartial men tell me that Monctonians themselves have the kindest feeling for the St. John boys, but the imported element, discards of the old Nationals, are very bitter to their old club. Be this as it may, it is no excuse for the disgraceful row that took place there last Saturday when players and spectators lost their heads and what should have been a cool, good game, proved a disgraceful row from inning to inning, and nearly became a free fight. A weak, but I believe an honest umpire, gave wrong decisions and dissatisfied both clubs; the visitors had no grand stand to take their part and got the worst of it, but not before Rogers, usually good tempered and gentlemanly, had talked in hot, strong language that should not be used on a ball field.

But what followed the defeat of the St. John club? Abusive newspaper reports, the like of which I have never seen. The *Times* excelled, especially, in these, and it could say nothing, apparently, too insulting or too strong against St. John and its players. It would almost appear that Monctonians liked such abuse of their neighbors. I don't believe it. No doubt they feel sore over the loss of the pennant and their position in the race, but to take satisfaction in this way, is not in their line. Our club does not include any angelic spirits, but we have a sober lot of boys who carry themselves like gentlemen wherever they go. We manage our own club, and I think do it fairly well, while professionalism seems to have the upper hand in Moncton. The first and popular manager has given way to another, and another captain—a professional—has replaced that good player and square fellow "Budd" Wilkins. The club that cannot banish discord from its own ranks, cannot make out any better with its visitors.

The *Times* reminds St. John of its conduct on the ball field at Halifax last year—a most unfair and unfounded charge that Halifax itself will not say is true now, and, if I mistake not, the *Times* itself has cried out against the dastardly robbery perpetrated then. It even goes back so far as to remind St. John of its old differences with the Shamrocks, in the days of Hennesey and some others equally quarrelsome. Let me tell Moncton people that it was owing to that disagreement that the old Nationals would not consider a game with the Shamrocks under its old captain, but that, this year, when square, peaceable ball-players, with no feeling save that of friendly rivalry, are in charge of the Shamrocks, the St. Johns, *nee* Nationals, made overtures for a series of games which are to be played this season. Whatever Moncton people may think of the St. John club, whether they think them rowdies or gentlemen, I want them to understand, that whenever they have sent their club to play them in this city, they have had nothing but the squarrest treatment, that there has been no disturbance, no brawling, no prolonged kicking against decisions, and no ill-feeling. I congratulate the *Sun* and *Berry* upon the evident desire for fairness that showed itself in its full and entertaining report of last Saturday's scene on the Moncton diamond.

I must not be too hard upon the Socials—for the dose they got from New Brunswick ball players, last week, must have

sickened them. Need I remind that aggregation of ball talent that the St. Johns are the strongest of at least three of the clubs that gave them such a thrashing? I think not. I hinted last week that Flynn was not in condition, and I think the Socials were of my opinion, because he failed to pitch any but the first half of the first game against the Shamrocks. Speaking on general principles, it is not a good policy for any ball player, and especially a pitcher, to spend the night before a match game in wild and riotous pleasure. I should not think the sights of St. John would compare with those of Chicago, but Pitcher Flynn evidently wanted to make sure of this fact. He made some undesirable acquaintances which may have effected his pitching next day. Who knows?

But, apart from Flynn's fall, I failed to discover where the strength of the Socials lay. Davison was batted hard, their fielding was wretched, their batting no good. They seemed to have no confidence in themselves, and it appeared that the only object in view for each of them was to walk to the plate and fan the air. Flynn is really the only man who made any decent attempt to hit the ball. The base running of the Socials—what little there was for them to do—had no dash about it. They seemed glued to the bag, unwilling or afraid to venture for the next 90 feet. Their coaching was unworthy of the name, in fact there was none, and so far as I could see the only strong point of their club was their backstop, White. He is a beauty, always on hand, cool as a cucumber, quick as a flash, true as a bullet, he sends the horsehide to second and it takes a Parsons, a Whitenect or a Donovan to slide to second safe under it.

I have a letter from President Skinner on the question of gentlemanly ball. I feel sure that all will agree with this gentlemanly patron of athletics, that the subject is a timely one and needs attention. Read what he says: TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS—I am sorry to see the trouble there is in running base ball on gentlemanly principles. I would want the managers of the different clubs to be careful in keeping the game as clear as possible of anything pertaining to rowdiness. The public of St. John take a great interest in the game, and I think it will continue as long as the players act as gentlemen on the field, play the best ball possible, and take a defeat in the proper manner. I hold that the players who take a defeat gracefully, are to be congratulated as well as the players who gain the victory. I would not trouble you in this matter but that I feel, if the accounts of games appearing in the papers—such as I read in the reports of late matches at Bangor and Moncton—are true, and I have good reasons for knowing they are, it will only take a short time to bring the game into such bad repute that no respectable person will attend the matches. Now, managers, make your men sign contracts with a clause in them stating that remarks from players of a character reflecting on any other players in the game, will leave the maker of such remark liable to a fine of \$5, the amount to go to the benefit of the grounds on which the game is being played, and I believe there will be less trouble. Of course, the managers cannot control the visitors in the grand stand, but I would suggest that the umpire is in a much better position to judge the different plays and give a decision on them than spectators in a grand stand, and it would save a lot of trouble if they would not interfere. My only object in writing this letter is to endeavor to keep all manly sports as respectable as possible, and I hope the different clubs will see this matter in the same light that I know a large number of the patrons of our different sports do. St. John, Sept. 3, 1899. A. O. SKINNER.

THE SOCIALS' DEFEATS.

What Our Halifax Correspondent, Power, Has to Say.

HALIFAX, Sept. 4.—Absence from the city has prevented me from seeing any of the Socials since their return, but I can inform you of the feeling of Haligonian baseballists over the result of their tour. They are certainly disgusted with the work of the team abroad, and have come to the conclusion that they cannot play outside their own diamond. It is to be regretted that Flynn did not make his appearance in St. John when his arm was in the same condition as in June and July and the first part of August, as your citizens would have then had an opportunity of seeing some clever pitching, as well as a great exhibition of head work, as no player has ever visited this city who has shown himself to be possessed of so much strategy as the ex-Chicago twirler.

It is not to be supposed that Flynn's arm being out of shape and the team playing such wretched ball is to be put forward as an excuse for defeat. There is no doubt that if the team had played such a game as they did against the Gardiners and Lovells, you would have witnessed an interesting game, but from this distance there seems to be no doubt that Sullivan deserves the credit of the victories. The Socials have never been able to bat him, and in the four games he has pitched against them he has improved in his art, as in each game he has reduced the number of base hits made off him. He is by odds the best pitcher that has played against the Socials this season. Sullivan was one of the pitchers who applied to the Socials at the first of the season for an engagement, and Haligonians all say they made a big mistake in not securing him. His work against the Nationals will be watched with interest.

Everybody has been inquiring, "What is the matter with the Socials?" which generally resulted in a shake of the head, with the reply, "I do not know," or "They can't play away from home." Their disastrous tour has brought base ball to a low ebb, and the majority of the public do not care whether they see a game this year again, while the base ball enthusiasts talk

of the prospects for next season. In regard to this there is some talk of a team being formed composed entirely of professionals.

The Y. M. L. A.'s have been greatly weakened by the departure of Joseph Gleeson, who returns to St. John to take a position in the Victoria Hotel. His departure was greatly regretted, not only by the members of the Y. M. L. A., but by everybody who had made his acquaintance, and if St. John would send over a number of young men like Mr. Gleeson to spend several months in Halifax, there never would be any rivalry between the two cities, as only the best of good feeling would prevail.

There is a great treat in store for the lovers of athletics in St. John, on Sept. 28, when the second annual championship meeting of the Maritime Provinces Amateur Athletic association will be held. The 100 yard race will be a great struggle between Frank White, of St. John, and Arthur Brady, of the Y. M. L. A.'s, but the great race of the day will be the 220 yards, in which it is expected Frank White, Arthur Brady, J. Bowen and G. A. Tracey will compete. White and Brady are flyers for the distance, while Tracey's distance is from 440 to 880 yards, but he is developing into quite a sprinter and he will not be last in the race. Bowen is a recent addition to the Wanderers, and not much is yet known as to his real abilities, but in the carnival meeting he won easily in the handicaps without any training. He will also start in the 100 yards. J. E. S. Bolton and W. W. Walsh, the Wanderers' mile runner, will likely be present, and H. L. Ruggles, also of the Wanderers, will probably compete in the jumping and pole vaulting. If the track at the Athletic grounds is in good shape you may depend upon some fast times. POWER.

ST. CROIX'S RACING NOTES.

Fine Descriptions of the Great Races of the Week.

The Grand Circuit races at Charter Oak, Hartford, Conn., last week were notable in several respects—the fast time, the beautiful weather, fine-drawn finishes, a fast track—and the overwhelming defeat of Nelson and Aubine and Harry Wilkes, all helped to excite the crowd, and the "small end" buyers went home satisfied that, say what you will, but Charter Oak just leads the Grand Circuit in their races. The opening race was the 2.17 class, pacing, purse \$2,000, and, as is customary, this year Ed. Annan won the last three heats and money in 2.16½, (the fastest heat Ed. Annan ever paced). The 2.30 class, purse \$3,000, was won by the favorite Sprague Goldust; Star Lilly, who won the first two heats, got second place. The 2.22 class, purse \$2,000, was won by the favorite, Geneva.

The Charter Oak stake of \$10,000, for the 2.20 class, was a big downfall for the New Englanders, as Michigan won. Here is a sample pool: Nelson, \$100; Jack, \$25; Alcyon, \$11; field, \$10. The first heat was won by Nelson in a jog in 2.14½, and Alcyon third. The pools then sold: Nelson, \$100; field, \$30. For the second heat the horses scored 13 times, and at the word Nelson at once took the lead and led into the home stretch, where Alcyon nailed him, and although Woodbury gave Nelson the gad for all he was worth, the horse failed to respond and Alcyon won by half a length in 2.16½. C. H. Nelson dropped a 1000, as he bet his horse would win in three straight heats. For the third heat the field sold for \$400, Nelson \$50, and others at \$125 for the field; \$45 for Alcyon and Nelson \$25. At the word Alcyon led, but Nelson made a rush and got the pole and led into the stretch, when Alcyon came again and gaining inch by inch won under the wire by one-half a length from Geneva S., who was a length ahead of Nelson, in 2.17½. The seventh heat Alcyon was never headed, winning the heat and race by a length from Jack, who was a length ahead of Geneva S., with Nelson back leading Sensation and Persica, who were lapped on him. Alcyon wins first money, \$5000; Nelson second, \$2500; Geneva S. third, \$1500, and Jack fourth, \$1000. All sorts of reports: some swear that Nelson is a quitter, but such a remark is liable to be altogether too previous, as Nelson has trotted some very fast races this year, and as this is his first year at campaigning and railroading, change of water and one thing and another, it is no more than honest to think that this may not have been one of the days that Nelson was all right. His first mile was a corker, enough to set almost any horse's head a-reeling. There is one thing certain, Nelson's defeat has taken off the edge of Balch's stallion race, and will encourage other owners to start their horses, as they will now think they have a fighting chance to win and will not fear Nelson as they did a week ago. The \$1500 purse, 2.30 class, was won by Maud Muller, who won the third, fifth and sixth. The 2.24 class, purse \$2,000, was won by a Hartford horse, Farmer Boy, which was very satisfactory to the 15,000 audience. The Insurance Guaranteed Stake for 2.20 pacers, purse \$4,000, was a grand race, and the pools sold: Budd Doble \$200, Lillian \$175, Hal Pointer \$115, field \$110. Lillian won the first heat easily in 2.16. Minnie P. won the second in 2.16½, Budd Doble, the favorite, won the next two in 2.16½, 2.15½, and the pools sold Doble

\$50, field \$9, and Hal Pointer scooped the next three heats, and race, and \$2,000, time 2.18½, 2.16½, 2.21½. The 2.18 class, purse \$2,000, had one of the grandest fields that has started this year, there being Aubine 2.19½, J. B. Richardson 2.17½, J. R. Shedd 2.19½, Granby 2.19½, Susie S. 2.18, Lady Bullion 2.18½, Seymour Belle 2.20½, and Newton B. 2.17½, the New Englanders who backed Nelson and lost were determined to win their pile back on Aubine and backed her to a man, but only added sorrow to their loss. A sample pool sold was Aubine \$800, Susie S. \$225, Richardson \$125, Seymour Belle \$115, Lady Bullion \$110, Shedd \$70, Newton B. \$20, Grant \$10; total \$1475. If Nelson's race was a surprise, this was one of the same sort, as Susie S. was never headed in either heat and trotted a grand race in 2.16½, 2.15½, 2.16, and it is said she could have trotted the three heats all better than 2.14 had she been called upon to do it. It is said some of the Maine men had to borrow money to get home with and swear they will not be so foolish again. The 2.27 class, purse \$1,500, was won by Katherine P. The free-for-all pacers, purse \$2,000, was won by Roy Wilkes; best time 2.14½. The free-for-all trotters was another down fall for the favorite. Harry Wilkes was favorite at \$300, Gene Smith \$250, field \$50. Harry won the first two heats in 2.16, 2.14½, when Gene Smith captured the next three in 2.15½, 2.21, 2.16. Oliver K., who made his reappearance after two years' absence from the turf, trotted a grand race and was second in the two fastest heats trotted. The 4-year-old colt race was won by Prince Regent; Repetition won the first and fastest heat in 2.19½ and got second money; McEwen third. The purse was \$1,000, divided.

Power says he does not know of any reason why the Halifax races did not fill, nor do I; but I know this much, that the 2.28 class, in the maritime circuit, has been the greatest evil we have to contend with. Had there been a free for all, as there should have been, all of the Halifax races would have filled, as there would have been at least three or four Maine horse men come over with a horse for the several classes, and with four more entries Halifax would have been all right. It is never too late to learn, and I hope that the other end of the circuit may profit by their lesson. A horse of DeBany's reputation is more of a drawing card in a race than a big field of home horses.

The St. Stephen Driving Park Association have been very liberal in their purses, and are working to make their meeting a grand success, and have offered a purse of \$150 for four year olds. They hope to have in this class one of the grandest races of the meeting, as Speculation and School Marm will battle for supremacy, and may the best colt win. If Edgardo starts they will have to keep going to win.

ST. CROIX.

POWER'S HORSE TALK.

Some Mistakes and Old-Fashioned Ways of Entering Horses.

HALIFAX, Sept. 4.—DeBarry, 2.19½, is now at Fleetwood Park, New York, in charge of trainer William Kelly. Col. Wood, 2.21½, who was shipped to Europe last spring by C. S. Frasier (who is well known in the provinces,) won the Sport club purse at 2800 metres, and the Comte Carrier purse at 3000 metres in the international race at Amsterdam, last month.

Many provincial horsemen have a system of making entries which should be at once corrected. They send an entry for one class, with the statement that he can be entered in another class if the secretary is desirous, and they will pay on arrival in the class which the horse starts; or they write to enter their animal in two classes, and they will pay in the one they start. Of course these entries are not accompanied by the entrance fees, and with the limited number of entries the tracks have nothing definite in regard to the number of horses likely to start. The old practice of sending the name of a horse for a specified class without the entrance fee, is still kept up, but should be discontinued. To make the payments easy this season the Maritime circuit asks but five per cent. at the time of making the entry and the balance the evening before the race, and horsemen should not fail to send the first amount with the entry. POWER.

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Managing Editor—"Have you heard anything about a tragedy tonight?" City Editor—"No; what's up?" "I've just come from church, where the minister referred to the Kane-Abell murder. Guess you'd better look it up for the morning paper. We don't want to get scooped on it."

"Five years ago I had a constant cough, night sweats, was greatly reduced in flesh, and had been given up by my physicians. I began to get Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and after using two bottles of this medicine, was completely cured."—Anga A. Lewis, Ricard, N. Y.—*Advt.*

"No," sobbed the widow. "I shall never find John's equal, but p-perhaps I can h-his equivalent."

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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. LOPEZ, 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.

FREDERICTON, N. B., September 11 and 12.

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 5 with W. F. FLEWELLING, Secretary.

ST. JOHN, N. B., September 24 and 25.

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 17 with A. M. MAGEE, 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 vice versa.

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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