

SPEEDING ON THE ICE.

PLACID CELESTIAL HAS SPEED AS WELL AS STYLE.

The Pretensions of St. John Make Him Weary—The Sport is Popular, Respectable—It is Exciting and Helps to Leaven the Lump of Life.

Not more than a decade has elapsed since trotting stock first began to boom in the city of Fredericton. Previous to that time the placid Celestial marvelled greatly at the horse propensities of Woodstock. Today it is doubtful if there is a town or city in the maritime provinces where the gilt-edged article is in more demand than in Fredericton. The Capital city is famous for having everything of the best; it is a world in miniature, so some observers say, and it cannot be doubted that it has now in its midst horses that for breeding and speed would astonish the devotees of the Marsh Road could they only join the turnout on Saturday afternoons. The professional sport is as rare as hen's teeth at the capital. Fredericton goes in strong for tone and style in all things, and the requisite tone and style are added to the culture of the horse by the fact that many of the best citizens of the town do not disdain to participate in the exhilarating joys of a brush on the road. It is an inspiring sight on Saturday afternoons at the capital to see the lofty titles of Premier Blair, Hon. F. P. Thompson, Sheriff Sterling, Principal Mullin, and other social pillars glistening in the sun behind their flying steeds.

In the very first rank of the flyers are Alonzo Staples' pacer, Sporter (or Royal Dan as he was called when owned in Saint John); John McConnell's Mollie W., also a pacer, and Hon. F. P. Thompson's chestnut gelding, Harry M. It is safe to say that any one of this trio would make it excessively sultry for any of the Saint John champions. Then there are James Gibson's stallion, Sir Garnet, W. P. Flewelling's grey gelding, Bred by John Bright, D. F. George's black gelding, George Allright, and Sheriff Sterling's Allright mare, all of them very close to the front of the procession.

Unquestionably, Isaac Peabody, of St. Mary's, is the owner at the present time of the largest and best bred stud of horses in York county. The list includes a valuable Blackmont mare whose dam was by Robert R. Morris; a mare by Robert K. Morris out of Island Maid; a mare out of the last-named by Blackmont, and a fine pair of chestnut geldings, speedy and full of action, by Kearsage. He has also a stallion colt from the Blackmont mare by Kearsage and another Kearsage mare from the same foundation.

Another valuable stud is that owned by James Gibson. It includes the five-year old Oliver Wilkes, dam a Henry Clay mare; Nervia, now four years old, by Florida by old Hambletonian, which as a two-year old trotted in 3.01; a General Wilkes' mare; a large and fashionable Hambletonian mare; a very promising Mac F. colt; a Harry Wilkes filly out of the well-known Humes mare, besides two very showy two-year olds by Tommy Fearnought out of highly reputed dams. He is also the owner of the well-known track performer Sir Garnet (2.31), who is looking prime this winter and showing all of his old-time speed.

While dealing with the Marysville contingent, the very fast and stylish roadster with which Charlie Hatt now beguiles the sunny hours, should not be overlooked. Charles has also a fine filly by Elation, dam by Dreadnaught. John Gibson owns a superior filly by Kearsage out of a Blackmont-Morris mare, one of the best bred animals in the maritime provinces.

There is no more enthusiastic horseman in Cottonville than Jack McConnell. He is holding the reins on the ice these days over the pacer Mollie W., which is owned by Fred Watterson, of St. Stephen. This horse goes like a rocket, and when she and Sporter are making the pace there is a general and very laudable desire among the boys for a tow-line. This mare was raised in Windsor, N. S.; her dam was by Tom Thumb, than whom no speedier sidewheeler ever lived. She is now six years old and if properly hitched can show a 20 gait without much trouble. Mr. McConnell also has the Morris mare Dot by Robert R. Morris out of a Logue mare; she has shown trials very close to .30. Out of this mare by MacF., Jack has a filly for which he has refused an ornamental figure.

The admirers of the veteran campaigner, Joe Hooker, (2 28) will be glad to know that he is in good hands. He is owned by Alex. Gibson, Jr., who also rejoices in the possession of the speedy Morris mare, Maud, and a pair of Kearsage colts, aged three and four respectively, good enough for anybody.

S. H. McKee, Jr., has two standard colts, Alley Morris by Alley Clay, and Premier by Harry Wilkes, both out of the Morris mare, Phantom, (2.39 1/2). These colts are handsome and stylish in action. The Wilkes colt, now coming three years old, is easily good for a 3-minute clip on the ice.

Dr. F. M. Brown is still the owner of the old favorite, Kitty (2.39 1/2), by East-ern Boy, and it takes a clipper to head

her. He has also a promising sucker by Mac F.; a Wilkes and a Kearsage colt, five years old, formerly owned by George Ross, capable of a .50 clip whenever called upon.

Dr. T. C. Brown's black mare by Blackmont, out of a mare by the Logue horse, has no need to turn out of the parade, and with training would make her mark; the doctor also owns a Kearsage and a Wilkes colt, both good representatives of their sires.

Still struggling to maintain the honors on the road which he held so long, is George Allright (2.41 1/2), owned by D. F. George. While out-classed by recent importations, he is still a slick article in a brush.

Premier Blair holds the ribbons over his Morris mare when the cares of state will permit. She is a very stylish mover, and it takes a .40 horse to beat her. He has also a pacer, out of the Dale mare, by Harry Wilkes, which won the two-year-old stake event, hands down last fall, in 3.01, and is regarded as one of the most promising animals in the Province. Mr. Blair expects to see her in the thirties this year. His stable also holds two other youngsters of Wilkes descent.

J. D. Hanlon's Black Pilot mare, under Jerry's judicious handling, is rapidly coming to the front. She is good for a .50 clip, and a dash between her and J. T. Sharkey's fine Morris mare, is sure to be entertaining to the boys.

The three-year old colt, Sir Wilkie, has been in a state of retirement lately. His breeding is excellent, and Napoleon intends at an early day to make him an object lesson for the critics.

One of the most ardent apostles of the turf in town is Sheriff Sterling. His Allright mare has a host of admirers, and a gamey one she is, as many of the boys can testify. It needs a performer well-down in the forties to stay with her. Her daughter, by Hernando, who won the two-year old event in 1889, getting a mark of 2.54, (the best record in the maritime provinces up to that time) has not been worked much this winter. The sheriff has also a very promising Wilkes, two-year-old, which he has confidence enough in to have entered for the Hartford stake race next September. A yearling MacF. filly out of a Sir Charles dam graces the sheriff's stud.

Among the star performers, Hon. Fred Thompson's recent importation, of course, takes a leading place. Harry M. is a chestnut gelding and was purchased from Dr. Ruggles, of Bridgetown, N. S. He can do quarters considerably under a .30 clip, and is much the superior at the trotting gait of any horse now in Fredericton. Mr. Thompson also has a mare that ranges well-down in the fifties, and a colt from her by Harry Wilkes.

No horse has attracted more attention this season than Alonzo Staples' chestnut stallion, Sporter. He is going like an express train this winter, and as between him and Mr. McConnell's pacer for the top of the heap, public opinion is still divided. Sporter is a very stylish horse. He has shown a quarter to waggon on the track in 34 seconds, and on the road in 35, and the knowing ones have now about concluded that he is a stayer. The talk of St. John horse cranks, who, think they have some speed down there, makes Alonzo weary.

The little John Bright gelding, owned by W. P. Flewelling, has many admirers. He has shown quarters on the track in .39 and when William will pull him open, usually proves a hot customer.

R. A. Estey has three colts by Kearsage, out of a granddaughter of Robert R. Morris, all handsome, and two of them giving promise of speed.

Among the rising generation, is a three-year-old filly of J. H. Fleming's, dam Bessie, now owned in St. John. As a two-year-old last summer, she showed quarters on the track in .44.

W. T. Whitehead has a very promising filly, coming three years old, by Hernando. This filly was entered in the stake race last fall, but owing to shortness of work, did not materialize. She is showing plenty of speed this winter.

J. G. Gunn's Allright gelding, Honest Farmer, is going like a cyclone this winter. Those who think this horse cannot beat .40, had better steer clear of John.

Dave Atherton, the veteran horse-trainer, is now developing the bay gelding, Keswick, which he hopes will equal King Charles. The last-named horse, which showed trials here last summer as low as 2.29, is naturally much missed in Fredericton. The fraternity, however, are glad to learn that he is winning new laurels abroad.

In the .50 class among Celestial flyers, Eldon Mullin's six-year-old Kearsage mare (dam by Colonel Taylor), is well to the front, and coming all the time. Another speedy one, now in foal to Mac F. is the mare which Will Gibson purchased from Dan McCormick in St. John last year.

John M. Wiley shows up with his Morris gelding when there is any particular fun afoot. And it takes something well down in the fifties to remain in his society.

John Edwards has several promising young ones on deck; also the fast trotting mare Nellie, which is capable of a dazzling burst when sheeted home for the barn. He is also the owner of a speedy pacer.

The late owner of the historic Stokes, Timothy Murphy, is now developing the Morris gelding, Boulanger. It Boulanger's opinion of what he is capable of should ever coincide with Timothy's we will hear something drop one of these frosty days.

It would not be possible within the limits of this sketch to include all the fine horses now owned in Fredericton. At no time during the past ten years has there been as much rivalry among celestial norsemen as during the present winter. More speed has been shown than ever before, and the performers in the first-class are more numerous. The local cranks have set a commendable example to their brethren in St. John by opening up and maintaining a track on the river, which is much more suitable than the road or street for driving purposes.

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HOW TO PLAY THE GAME.

THE POPULAR CRAZE OF TIDDLEDY WINKS EXPLAINED.

"Astra" has Some Remarks to Make About It—"It is as Easy as Winking"—A Good Way for Some People to Pass an Evening—The Difference in the English and American Methods.

"Yes, I can tell you all about the game of 'Tiddledy Winks' " writes "Astra" in answer to a question, but it is a little hard to describe on paper. It is a most fashionable game, and absolutely the rage just now in the United States. It consists of a little black cup, something like a chocolate cup without a handle, and blue, red, green, black, white, and yellow counters; six of each about the size of a five cent piece, or a little larger. These, with six large counters in the same colors, and slightly larger than a 25 cent piece, comprise the game, which is played by six persons, each having six small counters and a large one. The cup is placed in the centre of the table, the players sitting around. The object of the game is to get as many counters into the cup as possible.

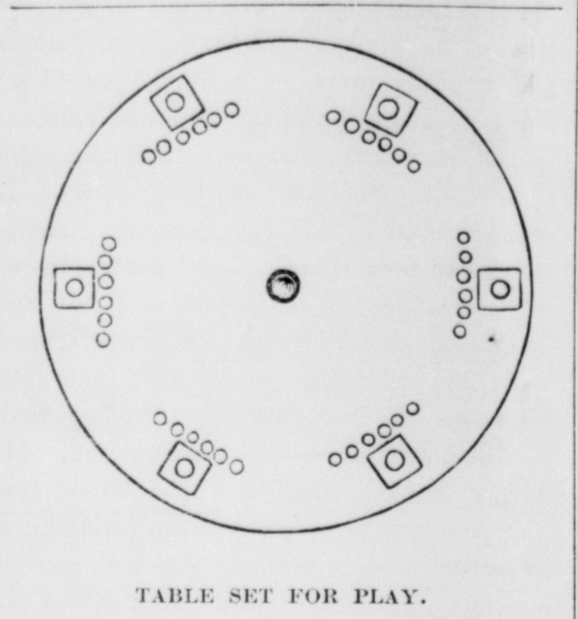


TABLE SET FOR PLAY.

to do this you use the large counter; they are all made of bone and highly polished. Pressing it over the small one with a peculiar slipping motion, which causes the under one to fly up and bounce somewhere, into the cup if possible. When a counter pops fairly into the cup the player is entitled to another play, and the one who first succeeds in getting all of his, or her color into the cup, wins the game. It is a most delightful and exciting game, and I hope I have succeeded in making it intelligible to you. It can be purchased from booksellers. It can be played like progressive whist with four or five tables in a room, and makes a very pleasant entertainment. I give you also a more elaborate and illustrated description which has been handed me by a friend.

Tiddledy Winks is now the great game for social amusement. Progressive epcure is played out. "Pigs in clover" is ancient history—whist, checkers, chess—all the games which have outlasted a season have, for the time being, gone into eclipse under the bright but doubtless fleeting light, of



JUMPING THE WINK.

tiddledy winks." It is as necessary "in society" to know how to play tiddledy winks as it is to know how to dance. You will not be outlaid if you can't do either, but if one's in the swim he likes to be on the crest of the wave. From two to six persons may make a set in this craze—the more the merrier. The game is English in origin, but the Americans have made enough changes in it to claim it. The blessed thing about this game is that it isn't "scientific." Any "jay" can play it as well as can the most accomplished swell—that is, if he can once get the hang of the thing. Small ivory chips are jumped by striking them on the edge with a larger chip, and the object of the game is to make them fall into a small "wink" pot set in the center of the table. Every girl winks when her chip jumps. The small chips are called "winks;" the larger chips are jumpers. The wink pot is placed in the center of the table. It is a small cup, barely two inches in diameter. If a mat of heavy tablecloth is used the only other "implements" are the winks, the tiddledys and a number of pasteboard counters. If not, each player is provided with a small pad or mat about three by four inches, from which to jump the winks. Each player has six winks. The mats are placed at an equal distance from the winkpot. A wink is put on the mat and the player holding one of the tiddledys hits or presses with its edge upon the wink, causing it to jump. The best result is secured by resting the tiddledy on the wink and drawing it backward. The wink may be made to jump several feet in this way. The skill attainable comes in so gauging the pressure that the wink will fall in the pot. If it goes beyond, the player must jump it back. One plays until he fails to put a wink in, and then the turn passes. Partners may help each other. The object in the English game is to get all the winks in, and the one who is through first tallies one for every wink left on the table when they are through. It often happens that a wink falls on that of another player. The under one cannot be touched, and the owner of the upper one may play all the rest in before trying that and setting

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the under one free. In the American game each wink jumped in the pot counts one. At the start a pool is formed, each player anteing seven counters. Each plays his own six winks the first round. After that he plays any winks he chooses, and as long as he can put winks in the pot. If he fails to put a wink in six trials he forfeits two counters to the pool. If he clears the table he can take out of the pot as many as he can put back. Four winks in succession form a run, and for every wink in a run over three the player receives an extra counter from the pool. When the winks are all in, the player who has made the largest run and the one putting in the largest number of winks divide the pool equally. Both the English and American games are played so as to give variety, and the game is also made more interesting by varying the distance at which the mats are placed from the wink-pot at the start-out. Sometimes a line ten inches in diameter is drawn around the wink-pot, and all winks falling in it have to be left until all others are in. This ring is called the dead line.

A Change for the Better. It was at a little station not many miles from St. John. The usual small crowd of villagers loitered on the platform, waiting for the train, and discussing the election. When the train arrived all attention was turned to it, and the discussion of politics gave way to admiration for the baggage master and his method of making trunks light on their sharp corners, so as to have no doubt where the cover joined the larger portion.

"Who is the city chap?" asked one of the young fellows standing at the further end of the platform, as a man, whose clothing was vastly different in cut and style from that of his own, walked into the waiting room when the train moved away. "Come, let us go and have a look at him." He drew his companion in the direction of the stranger. But as they approached, he looked at him with a puzzled air, and finally exclaimed: "Why, it's Jim Brown. But look at his clothes; he must be getting awfully extravagant." "Oh, no, I'm not," said Brown, who had overheard the remark. "I buy my clothes at a different store; and, do you know, this suit, which I bought today in St. John, didn't cost as much as that one with baggy knees and elbows I had on yesterday, and it burst at the seams inside of a week. Where did I buy these? At W. J. Fraser's Royal Clothing Store, King street."—A

On Time. Punctuality is a redeeming feature in anybody's character. A man that is punctual can always get credit. Think of that, boys, as to appointments; always be on time and you will be liked. Now, with us in our work, we must be on time to keep our customers 'Very seldom do we disappoint a patron. Ungars Steam Laundry will do your work, boys, well and on time.—A

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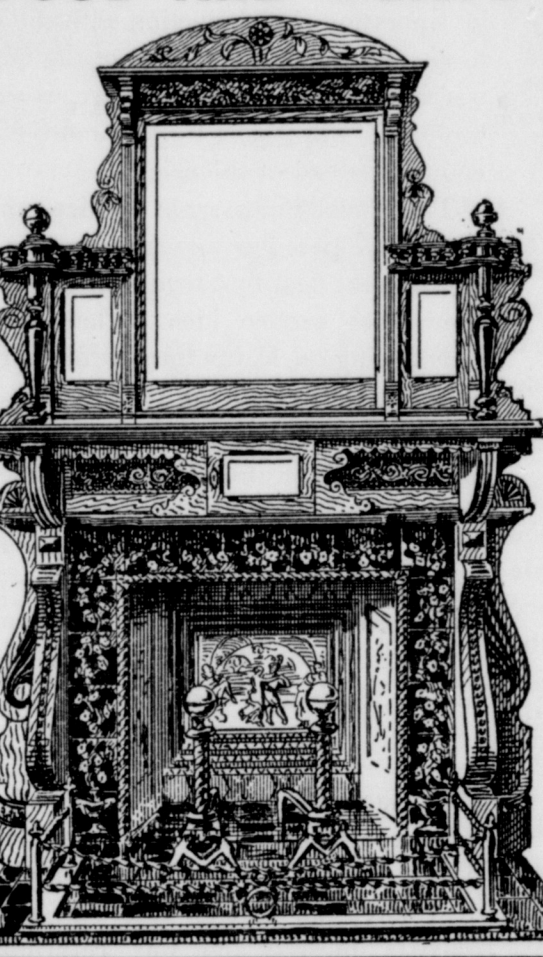
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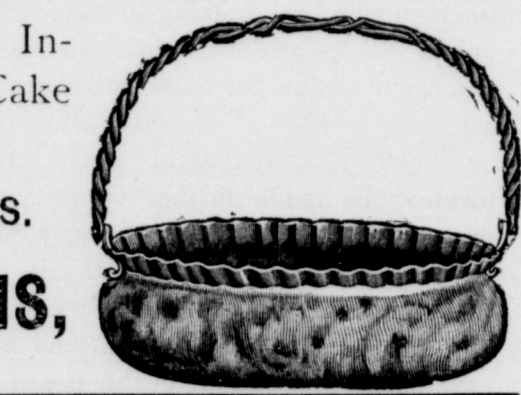
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