

AMERICAN HORSE JOURNAL ON SALE OF BILL SHAREN

Says That Very Few Geldings in All History Ever Sold for as Much as \$25,000—Bill Sharen an Unknown Quantity So Far as the Great World of Trotting is Concerned—A Well Bred Horse.

(From the Horse Review) The acquisition of the Provincial trotter Bill Sharen 2.11½ by trainer Thomas W. Murphy, was among the news items of last week most interesting to active horsemen. Some of them, by the way, inclined to smile at the reports printed in the daily press, to the effect that the price paid was \$25,000; and my own idea is that this announcement had been somewhat idealized in transmission. Very few geldings in all history have ever sold for as much as \$25,000, and of late years I can recall only one that topped the \$20,000 mark, that being Pet-

er Manning, record at that time 2.06½, for which Mr. Murphy paid \$20,000 last (1919) fall at Lexington. Manning had shown Murphy what he could do, publicly and under the watch, and was, moreover, pronounced by many of the best judges who saw him, a phenomenal trotter, so his price was not excessive to my way of thinking. But Bill Sharen has displayed his wares only in the remote Maritime Provinces, and, so far as the great world of trottingdom is concerned, must be classified an unknown quantity. Murphy made the trip to New Brunswick and inspected him person-

ally, however, and the individuality of the grandson of Peter the Great must have pleased him, for he bought him, unquestionably for a big price, whatever it may have been. What is more, Bill has the "Indian sign." He has started thus far in eighteen races and won them all—seven last year and eleven this, and taken a half-mile track win-race of 2.11½, this having occurred at Chatham, N. B.

Interested in Breeding. The breeding of this trotter has interested me very much, and as it combines elements that have in the past produced, or helped to produce, some of our greatest trotters, a few words about it may not be untimely. Captain Aubrey 2.07½, the sire of Bill Sharen, is a horse that I saw repeatedly in former years, when he was owned by the late John Donovan, of St. Joseph Mo., and trained and raced by Al Thomas. He was one of the first entire sons of Peter the Great to take a record of 2.10 or better having been among the New England-bred foals got by him before his (Peter the Great's) sale by the late J. Malcolm Forbes. The Captain was bred by Mr. Forbes and foaled in 1904, hence is now sixteen. His dam was May Fern 2.11½, a very fast and game mare in her racing days, and a high-class individual, by Red Fern 2.27½—she was Tennessee-bred. Mr. Forbes, whose hobby

SAY BRITISH NAVY WILL SOON RANK THIRD

London, Dec. 7.—The British Admiralty's estimates for 1921, printed for the Cabinet, are to recommend the building of one more dreadnaught, of the post-war type, but the Cabinet opposed. Britain has a number of each capital ships building, embodying the improvements suggested by the Battle of Jutland, while the United States has twelve. Japan will shortly start eight. Admiral Jellicoe argues that the use of torpedoes makes the battle fleet practically useless. However, his handling of the fleet at Jutland has been severely criticized.

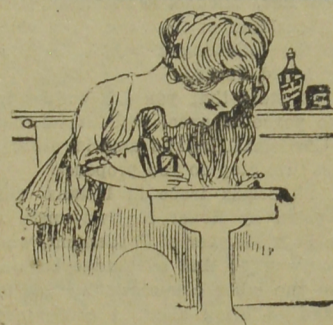
The London Times recently said that the British Navy, so far as capital ships are concerned, would soon rank third among the navies of the world:

as a breeder was the use of fast-record sires and dams, was attracted by May Fern and purchased her for a matron, in which role she was very successful during her seasons in his ownership, for besides producing Captain Aubrey to the cover of Peter the Great, to that of Bingen 2.06½ she produced Lord Revelstoke, 3, 2.12½. He was considerably faster, age for age, than Aubrey, and was sold soon after taking his record, for export, going to Austria, where he raced successfully and then proved the most prolific sire of speed ever seen there. Caid 2.07½ alone excepted. Up to the cessation of racing in Austria-Hungary, owing to the Great War and its results, Lord Revelstoke had outstripped all sires in that country, but Caid, in the number of winners to his credit with records of 2.30 or better. Age considered he made a superior showing to Caid himself, indicating that in a few years more he might supplant even that wonderful progenitor. My recollection is that after the death of Col. Donovan, Captain Aubrey found a new home in the Maritime Provinces, where, if Bill Sharen is a sample, he is doing much to "improve the breed of horses." In the U. S. he left at least three high-class trotters behind him—Sweet Aubrey 2.08½, Lady Aubrey 2.09½ and Ruby Aubrey 2.10½.

Norway W. 2.18½ is the dam of Bill Sharen. She was bred by Charles Whittemore, the "shoe-polish king," who, about twenty years ago, was one of the leading breeders of New England having a big stock farm at Newton, not far from Boston, Mass., which was headed by May King 2.20, the sire of Bingen, and Lookaway 2.22½. Lookaway who was by Look, son of Nutwood 2.18½, is best known as the sire of the famous matron Nowadays, 3, 2.14½, the dam of twelve standard performers, four with records of 2.10 or better, and the premier matron at Mr. C. W. Lasell's Oakhurst Farm, Whitinsville, Mass. The dam of Norway W. was Medie, by Sir Walter, Jr., 2.18½, son of Sir Walter 2.24½, by Aberdeen 27—and Sir Walter, Jr., as everybody interested in pedigrees well knows, sired Blondella, the dam of the king of all trotters, Uhlan 1.58. The next dam was a mare called Pauline, by Lilly's Shakespeare, where the pedigree ends. Pauline was an Indian-bred mare, and the blood of her sire, Lilly's Shakespeare, is unrecorded. Probably it was addle or pacing blood, for, when bred to Wedgewood 2.19, Pauline produced the pacing mare Lucille 2.14½, in her day a prominent performer over New England and other tracks.

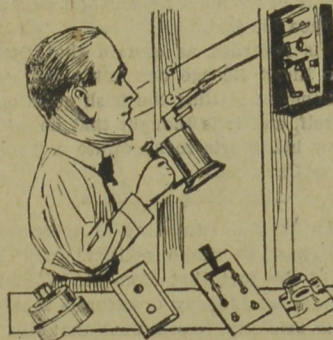
Now, the point to be noted is this: Blondella, the dam of Uhlan, was out of Brunette, a mare of saddle and pacing blood for the most part. From her Bingen sired not only Uhlan, but also Indian Hill 2.11½ (half-mile track), and Uhleen, the dam of Uhlan Brooke 2.08½ (this season). Medie, the granddam of Bill Sharen, was bred to Lookaway and produced Norway W. 2.18½, she in turn producing Bill Sharen himself. When bred to Bingen, Nowadays, by Lookaway, produced Totara 2.09½, a noted filly in her day, and when bred to Henry Seizer 2.10½, a grandson of Bingen, produced Henry Todd, 3, 2.10, a futurity winner, and at one time the champion two-year-old gelding. Again, Bill Sharen's sire, Captain Aubrey, is by Peter the Great and out of May Fern, who produced Lord Revelstoke to the cover of Bingen. It will be noted that the cross of Bingen upon all the collateral elements that have gone to produce Bill Sharen—i. e., Sir Walter, Jr., Lookaway, and May Fern—was very successful. Now the cross of Peter the Great upon the same elements has produced a sensational trotter in its turn. At the roots of both maternal lines—those of Uhlan and Bill Sharen—we find saddle or pacing blood. All these things are to me of great interest, and I shall await the appearance of this Provincial-bred star in "high society" next season with far more than common anticipation.

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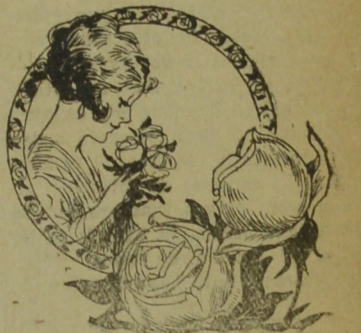
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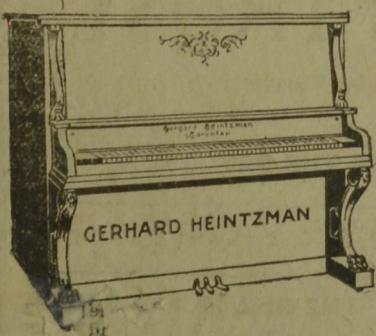
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