

IT'S A DEAD FAILURE.

Trotting in England Excites the Rivalries of Americans Rather Than Admiration.

MEETING AT ALEXANDRA PALACE.

Peculiar Racing Rules and Poor Methods of Introduction Will Probably Keep the Sport Down.

TROUBLE FROM THE BALL CLUBS.

Latest Gossip From the Spectators and the Betting Champions.

(CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.)

LONDON, August 8.—Double anything said about trotting in England will interest a very large number of American sporting people. I witnessed the meeting of July 23, and to speak frankly on the subject I don't desire to witness another of the kind. If the British had a better and a wealthier turf than the Americans it may safely be said that the former will never see the day when they will have anything at all to compare with us in the way of trotting races. I venture a further prediction. I feel quite safe in saying that this generation of citizens will not see trotting in any way ranked as a popular sport in England. There are many good reasons for this conclusion, and I intend to note some of them.

The trotting meeting I attended was at Alexandra Palace, a palace by the way that was built to rival Crystal Palace, but which so far has been an absolute failure. The Alexandra Palace is in the north of London, and is a very handsome place. Some big events have failed to popularize it, and its case must be an out and out hopeless one if dependence is placed on trotting races doing it any good. I never saw a worse meeting, nor a more motley crowd, than the trotting "hetchers' matinee" at Pittsburg towers as far above what I saw at Alexandra Palace as the sun does above a tallow candle.

Of course I am aware that trotting in England is just in its infancy, that it is only in its introductory and experimental stage. This is quite true, but it is also true that the Britishers just think themselves on a level, at least, with everybody and everything. I contended with some people who really labored under the impression that there was really little or no difference between trotting races in England and those in the United States, and that if there was any difference in favor of the English it would soon disappear. In giving a brief statement regarding the somewhat fruitless attempt to establish trotting in England and Scotland I wish it to be borne in mind that while there is not much probability of the particular style of racing in question becoming popular among the English people there is a very strong desire among a certain class of well-to-do people to purchase good American trotting horses. This latter fact, however, must not be taken to mean that all who want to buy good trotting horses desire to figure with them in race meetings.

At Alexandra Palace.

One great drawback to the Alexandra Park meeting was the location of the track, it being somewhat out of the way; but, however serious that condition may have operated against a good attendance, the admission and other charges were much greater impediments. The price of general admission was 2½ shillings, or 60 cents. To get into an enclosure or upon a stand 60 cents were charged, and refreshments were double the ordinary figure. The price admission might not seem exorbitant to Americans, but it is an extremely high figure in England, as the very best racing in the country can be seen for half that amount. It was, indeed, a puzzle to me to know what reason there was for such an apparently foolish condition. Certainly the price of admission was a very large number of people away, and it was limited to a few hundreds of people and they did little or no business when they did get in. The racing was not so good as a half price and surely I know of no track directors in Pennsylvania who could muster courage sufficient to charge even 5 cents for such a display.

The card announced nine races for the one afternoon. That number would doubtless startle the ordinary American patron of the turf as it is often difficult in the United States to get through three races on one day. But the card was misleading as the "heats" were announced as races. Still I am thinking that my readers will need more definite information on the matter. Well here are the general conditions of racing: Each race is on handicap principles and the horses are handicapped according to their previous performance. All the horses enter along with the horses. All the horses and ponies entered for any particular race are drawn in heats, and the first and second of each heat, provided the second is not distanced, start in the final heat, and the winner of the final wins the race. This arrangement enables the Secretary to tell how many heats there will be, and hence the announcement of the number of heats in "harness" races. But there was another singular and unfair condition, viz: horses driven to saddle and others to harness, all competing in one race.

For instance, the first race was a self-handicapping race for horses and ponies of any breed. The first heat was for the "saddle class," which was won by a horse named Race Boy, who had 78 yards start. The next heat was the "harness class," and a horse named Reform won, with a little grey pony named Midge second. Reform had 130 yards, and Midge had 238 yards start. Now, it is the final "harness class" and "harness class" winners started against each other. Strange as it may seem, the little pony won in 2:38, the horse covered the distance, which was 238 yards short of a mile in that distance. One or two American bred horses competed, but they were of a very poor quality. The track was a bad one to trot on, as it was up and down hill. It was also very narrow, but that did not matter much, as the horses were never more than two abreast. "Standing starts" were made, except in one case. As a rule, the horses, when in a race, were a quarter of a mile from each other, and in the middle-and-half heats a win of about 200 yards was something like a "close finish." I saw one named Blanche who had been to America that would have been interesting to the Allegheny butchers. The mare was, without exaggeration, more of the build of a bona fide drag horse than a race horse, and, to speak frankly, when she was driven she looked like a pack horse. The fact that she was a competitor. She "hoisted" herself away, however, having 54 seconds start and eventually clanked her way home a winner of a heat. It was very, very funny to see.

English Trotting Precedents.

From what I have above stated, my readers will not be surprised when I say that I have little more faith in trotting becoming popular in England than I have in baseball becoming the leading game among the English. To begin with, there is a conservatism or a love for the "good old ways" among the English people that will ever go hard against the success of any American sport in England. Not only does the love for the "old" have a great influence, but there is also a strong prejudice against the waker of Americans. These two forces acting combinedly really have great power, and I will be surprised if they do not entirely drop trotting from the minds of those who are so much interested in the fact that trotting

races are not being introduced to the English people in anything like their best form. Such affairs as that at Alexandra Park are a ridiculous and a good deal of an American trotting meeting, and surely that is no reasonable way of trying to introduce what may be termed a new sport into a country already full of old and popular ones. I venture to say that if trotting races could be introduced in England just as many of us have seen them on good tracks in the United States there would be little doubt of their success here.

During the park races I had a conversation with F. Cathcart, the Secretary of the English Trotting Union, and he did not at all seem hopeful about the future. He intimated that the venture had been discouraging, and "trusting" that matters would improve. He defended the "heat" arrangement, and was kind enough to tell me that American were somewhat inclined to adopt that plan. Of course, I was not aware of that, and doubtless Mr. Cathcart believes that what he said was true. He ventured the opinion that people get tired of, for 6, 7, and sometimes 8 heats, and claimed that dividing the horses into heats, and having a final heat, as was done at Alexandra Park, the better way, as it allowed the public to see a new combination of horses every time, and it did not give drivers the opportunity to "pull" that is given in the American system. I do not see how it is necessary to enter into detailed argument with Mr. Cathcart on the question, but I merely reminded him that the very fact of there being six or seven heats in an American race showed in doubt at every stage, and that feature causes excitement and interest. He also remarked that under the "heat" system a good horse, by making a little mistake, might be defeated in its heat, and therefore lose all chance in the race. As for pulling I repeat that drivers disposed to cheat will do so under any system, and their chances for doing so are everywhere numerous under the crude English system than under the system of the United States. Under the latter system the driver need only be second in a heat to get into the final, and if that is not a very strong inducement to make the drivers careless as to whether they get first or second in a preliminary heat I don't know what would be an inducement.

But the truth is that very crude methods have to be adopted here in order to induce owners of so-called trotting horses to enter their stock in the races. Trotting races in England are not patronized by the wealthy classes. They may be here and there a wealthy amateur of that kind who really likes the sport, but the patrons of the sport has not been able to cause national confidence in it. One of the leading sporting papers of the country intimated as much the day after the Alexandra Park races. On the day of the races in question there were no running races, and yet there were not a half-dozen good patrons of the turf present. What seems to be desired, according to my way of thinking, is that the sport be put upon that basis that has made it popular and successful in America. There are now more than 200,000 horses registered in England, but the class must not only be improved but there must be a sensible system of racing introduced, by which every encouragement will be given to rear good horses, regardless of their size. In other words, "classes" instead of miscellaneous handicapping must be adopted.

Will Fight It Out.

Since I last wrote anything about the National Baseball League of Great Britain, there has been little or no change in the situation here. The promoters of the venture are still determined to struggle through the season, and they will not have much longer to struggle as the football season will not be very long in coming, and then down goes the other ball, as the artists of the game are mostly baseball players. The weather has been finer and that has been a little more encouraging to the players, but as far as I know, it has not improved the situation in the least. The Birmingham team, which is the favorite of the English, are still the favorites, but they are not so good as they were last year. The Derby team, which is the favorite of the American, are still the favorites, but they are not so good as they were last year. The Birmingham team, which is the favorite of the English, are still the favorites, but they are not so good as they were last year. The Derby team, which is the favorite of the American, are still the favorites, but they are not so good as they were last year.

Some Probable Matches.

It seems certain that Billy McCarthy will figure in a battle. Regarding him I said last week what I have to say and I expect he will be defeated. But what I wish to point out is the fact that Jack Burke is making any amount of noise about Jack Dempsey. The former is giving the public to understand that all he wants on this earth is to fight the American. Burke states that he has cabled Dempsey on the matter and is daily expecting a reply. So far no purse has been offered for Burke and Wall, but he is waiting for a reply. He has one of the most anxious citizens in the world to make money. I think that Burke will be a little too heavy for either Dempsey or Wall and certainly if Dempsey visits England all he has to do is to result. Wall is anxious for an engagement as he is clear broke and is depending on friends. He has good friends in London.

I am also informed that the Pelican Club will offer a good purse for a contest between Jack McAllister and Jim Curran. The former, according to New York editors, is willing to come here if a good purse is offered, but he does not say what he terms a good purse. The Pelicans may offer \$1,000, or \$7,500, and if they do they will do well indeed. Curran is in good condition, and nothing would give him greater pleasure than to meet McAllister again. Certainly the battle would be a bitter one. McAllister has gone into training at a little seaside village on the southeast coast of England.

PHILADELPHIA.

Of Interest to Members.

The success of Mrs. Annie M. Beam, of McKeesport, Pa., in the treatment of diarrhea in her children will undoubtedly be of interest to many mothers. She says: "I spent several weeks in Johnstown, Pa., after the great flood, on account of my husband being employed there. We had several children with us, two of whom took the diarrhea very badly. I got some of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy from Rev. Mr. Chapman. It cured both of them. I know of several other cases where it was equally successful. I think it had been already recommended so much, I tried it" 25 and 50 cent bottles.

For sale by E. G. Stucky, 1701 and 2401 Penn ave.; E. G. Stucky & Co., Cor. Wylie ave. and Fifth st., McKeesport; Geo. E. Butler and Frankstown ave.; Theo. E. Irig, 3610 Fifth ave.; Carl Hartwig, 4016 Butler st.; John C. Smith, Cor. Penn ave. and 15th st.; Jas. L. McCort & Co., 425 Fifth ave., Pittsburg; and in Allegheny by E. E. Heck, 72 and 194 Federal st.; Theo. E. Morris, Cor. Hanover and Preble ave.; and by F. W. H. Kestler, 25 Federal st., and Charles L. Walther, 64 Chestnut st.

THIRD POPULAR EXHIBITION.

Via Allegheny Valley Railroad, Tuesday, August 19. To Lake Chautauque and return, \$5; Niagara Falls and return, \$7; Toronto, Canada, and return, \$9; Thousand Islands, Alexandria Bay, and return, \$12. Tickets good 15 days returning. Train leaves Union station at 8:20 A. M., consisting of Eastlake coaches and Pullman parlor buffet cars. Arrangements have been made to illuminate Prospect Park and Niagara Falls by a number of electric arc lights of great power every evening during the summer. Toronto and Alexandria Bay passengers can step at Niagara Falls and witness this grand sight.

AMERICAN CHALLENGE.—2½ mile, 28 in. wide—the last good challenge that will be made this season. HENRY & HAZEN. 27252.

LADIES MAY WHISTLE

The Old Rhyme About Crowing Hens Doesn't Count Nowadays.

SOCIETY BELLES ARE LEARNING.

Women Who Have Whistled Themselves Into Fame and Fortune.

RIVALRY OF FEATHERED SONGSTERS.

(WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.)

"Prepare to pucker," is the edict that has gone forth from a social oracle, and next winter it is promised that no social entertainment will be complete if, unless the programme has at least one whistling solo among its numbers. Already a class in whistling is being formed among the girls of the Four Hundred, of New York, of whom the brassy, beautiful and athletic Gailie Hargons is the moving spirit. This class will try to secure the services of the clever Mrs. Shaw, to direct their tuneless sessions, upon her return to this country. If the lady's foreign tour cannot be brought to a close in the early fall, then the girls will look elsewhere for an instructor.

The fact is fixed and incontestable. It is the duty of all well-to-do women to whistle for fun, but not a few women welcome the recognition by the social leaders for the money its popularity promises them. The remarkable financial, artistic and social success of Mrs. Shaw and Miss Ella Chamberlain as professional whistlers has stimulated the ambition of all women with that piping, bird-like quality in their throats. The power and the love of whistling has existed, like the laws of gravitation, for several thousand years. All that was needed was the genius to develop the power and the

love, and then practically apply the one to the other.

Mr. Elizabeth Seymour Hodgson, of Rossmore, Va., is the sister of Miss Mary F. Seymour, who has been one of New York's successful business women. Previous to her marriage, Miss Hodgson resided in New York, where she was a great favorite in musical circles. For years she was the leading contralto in the churches of Drs. Collyer, Prentiss and Kittredge. She is a perfect enthusiast on voice culture. She believes almost every voice can be developed and brought under proper control by the following out this theory she has devoted many

years to voice training, having among her many pupils whom no one believed had a particle of musical talent, and who, under her success as a whistling artist has been phenomenal.

At present she is the chief attraction at the court of St. Petersburg. While she stood whistling before the Czar of all the Russias, little Mabel Stevenson, the infant whistler from the United States, entertained the aristocratic Prince and Princess of Wales with harmonies that exceeded the very birds of the air. Miss Chamberlain's reputation is local rather than international. She is a lady who just now is whistling popularly while others claim this distinction for Miss Ella Chamberlain, of Cambridge, Mass. And many ascribe Mrs. Shaw's success as a whistling artist to her peculiar musical ability, but that is not so. Her success as a whistling artist has been phenomenal.

A NEW WHISTLER.

A talented woman who will soon take a prominent place in this new craze is Miss Eugenie Richter. She is a protege of Major Bundy, the New York editor, and from the United States, she is an expert in France and Germany. She is now living with her parents at Woodside, N. J. She has a number of pupils, daughters of wealthy parents, whom she is instructing in the intricacies of her art. Miss Richter is a woman of striking individuality. She has all the vivacity and sparkle of the French girl combined with the serious traits of the German. Intellectually she is not only makes all her own dresses, but she can also row, drive, ride, cook, wash, iron and mend. Her husband is now the efforts in all these employments. She takes particular pride in her knowledge of all the

departments of the housewife's art. Her father has suffered reverses, and as the oldest of the family, she has bravely taken her place as a supporting pillar of the happy household.

RECHONS IN THE PATHETIC.

It is the spirit of helpfulness and duty which wins friends for her wherever she goes. To bear a beautiful girl throwing her soul into melodies sweeter even than the morning warbling of a robin must charm even the least susceptible ear, but when she knows that her harmonious efforts are inspired by the necessities of those at home, her appreciation is doubled by her sympathy. Miss Richter is known as a sentimental whistler. She excels in the pathetic ballads which appeal to the heart, although her repertoire is large and varied. The girl, who has already accomplished so much, is probably not over 22 years of age. A brilliant future undoubtedly awaits her. No one is more deserving of success.

Like a breeze of Western melody upon a wailing world comes Miss Laura McManis, of Indianapolis. Even so staid and veteran a manager as Major Pond said of her when she was in New York recently, "the dimples in her left cheek ought of itself to make fortune for her." Miss McManis is young, pretty, stately and graceful, and a first-rate business woman. She is a typical Western girl. So is her sister, Miss Alice McManis,

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THE MARVEL OF THE AGE.

Known as the HUMAN CLAW-HAMMER,

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The Famous Little Society Couple.

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The most popular Midgoin in America.

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Superb, Refined Specialty Performance,

by First-Class Artists, whose

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Open Every Afternoon at 1 P. M.

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Admission, 10c; Children, 5c.

Reserved Seats, 5c Extra.

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Performing Music for Concerts, Weddings,

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WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY, AUGUST 18,

Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday.

A PERMANENT SUCCESS MUST HAVE MERIT

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The Dock Scene, North River, N. Y.

The Novel Chinese Opium Joint Scene.