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SPORTING.

RACING.

SPORTING NOTES.

The sport witnessed at Croydon was by no means good, and the prevalence of fog on the opening day seriously affected the attendance, which was by no means a large one on the second afternoon, when the weather was delightfully seasonable. It has always been a source of astonishment to me how the public have stood the Woodside fixture, with its primitive surroundings, for so long, the accommodation being poor in the extreme, and the racing seldom above plating form. The executive promise to change all this when the time arrives for the new quarters at Gatwick to be entered upon. Let me here express a hope that they will then display a little more expedition in the publication of the overnight entries, &c., than they have hitherto done, and not continue the fossilised practice of enjoying their wine and nuts before considering the requirements of the public. The excellent idea, which is followed at such leading enclosures as Sandown and Kempton Parks, of closing all overnight races and fixing the order of running contemporaneously with the last race of the day, might well be followed at many other places, instead of withholding such important information until the night is well advanced. Overnight handicaps are also much too common, and a little more discretion in this direction might with advantage be exercised by clerks of courses who are guilty of overdoing the business when they advertise more than one handicap to close the evening before running. Race programmes should be issued in as complete a state as possible, and not more than two events allowed to remain open until the night before running, except under very exceptional circumstances. This is a question which must be considered by the Jockey Club, and added to the reforms in prospect. The poorness noticeable in the quality of the entertainment at Croydon was not altogether extended to the Esher gathering, though it cannot be said that the sport there was quite up to the average, and yesterday's racing under National Hunt rules failed to rise above mediocrity.

At Gosforth Park a capital meeting was brought to an issue, and both from a racing and financial point of view the affair was a great success. That a turn for the better should be noticeable here is very gratifying, and there are distinct signs that the hold the place now has upon the affections of the north country people is not merely of a transitory nature, but lasting, and the shareholders may now begin to dream of the dividends so long prayed for.

With the racing of the past week I do not intend to meddle beyond placing on record the conviction, which is forced upon me, that at Sandown yesterday we had the mortification to gaze upon an unusually large proportion of non-tryers, two cases being particularly glaring, at any rate in the opinion of the majority of the spectators, who were loud in their denunciation of the business.

The meteorological outlook at the hour of writing is not too promising for the enjoyment of intending visitors to Newmarket this week, and it is to be hoped the weather will brighten considerably before the forces assemble on the Heath at noon on Tuesday. With the elements propitious, there is no more enjoyable place in England, but when the reverse is the case, and fierce storms of wind and rain sweep across the exposed plain, he is an ardent soul indeed who does not wish himself in the snug smoking room of the White Hart or The Rutland. A period of sustained sunshine is rarely enjoyed by those who follow racing at Newmarket at this time of the year, so that the experienced turfite enters the town of extortionate charges prepared for whatever emergency may arrive, and if he be a member of the Jockey Club he has every accommodation in the "Cuckoo" Stand at the end of the Rowley Mile at his command. This week the number of events for decision during the four days just fall short of 50, and to show the amount of acumen that is displayed in the arranging of them no fewer than nine items figure on Thursday's card, and only half a dozen for Friday's. Six races per diem is invariably satisfying, but why not put back one of the selling plates which are fixed to be run on Thursday to Friday's programme, or omit at least one of the overnight races altogether. Nine races on a bleak October afternoon are out of reason altogether. There are seven events on each of the first two days, and, taking them as they stand in the programme, a fairly numerous field should turn out for the Fcrdham Welter, and both St. Symphorien and Heresy appear to possess a chance, though I may not improbably rely upon OLD COIN alone when dealing with the race to-morrow night. A Plate is not unlikely to fall to GOLD REEF, and the Criterion Nursery I shall assign to GAY MINSTREL at present. A Maiden Plate FORESTER or MY STAR should win, and in the Water Hall Plate CHEVY CHASE is likely to experience danger from MODESTIE, the French Omnium winner. The Criterion Stakes is the chief event on the first day's card, and despite a 10lb. penalty, I cannot look beyond GOUVERNEUR, in the absence of encouraging information respecting one or two of the remainder. I had hopes at one time of Henry VIII. being the likely recipient of this race, but he was well beaten by Lottie Smith when galloped lately, therefore to M. Blanc's colt I must look to pull me through. The Selling Plate reads good for LADY CLARE, with a run. On Wednesday the New Nursery may fall to BREACH or BRACKEN, and the Dewhurst Plate I shall briefly dismiss by selecting

CORSTORPHINE.

The field for the Cambridgeshire may, after all reach nearer thirty than a score, thanks to several likely runners that have come into the market at the last minute, and at the time of writing the following list represents the

PROBABLE STARTERS AND JOCKEYS.

Table with columns: Name, Age, lb, Jockey. Includes Sheen, Morion, Laureate II, Signorina, Nunthorpe, Reve d'Or, Wise Man, Freemason, Alicante, Wishing Gate, Semolina, Martagon, Garter, Galway, Oddfellow, L'Abbe Morin, Royal Star, Grand Prior, Star, Judith, Amateur, Tostig, Narrator, \*Dearest, \*Victorious, La Négigente, Belmont, Westminster, Carabinier.

\* Doubtful starters.

Having touched upon the race and its general surroundings so fully of late, a lengthy analysis is unnecessary at this writing, in view of the immense importance which is certain to attach to the doings of the clubs to-morrow. Therefore my remarks must be very brief. I shall anticipate Sheen's absence in the face of his engagement in the £1000 Plate on Friday next, for the Cesare witch winner cannot hope to carry 9st. 12lb. to the front on Wednesday. He has a great chance on paper to again beat Alicante, but he is in turn held safely by Morion, on the running of the pair in the July week. The latter has a substantial impost for a three-year-old, and is yet bound to finish in the first flight. I rather prefer the claims of Odd fellow, who will have the assistance of Georg Barrett, and must run well. Such as Signorina Nunthorpe, Reve d'Or, Wise Man, Freemason Wishing Gate, Grand Prior, Star, Judith Amateur, and all below him in the above list excepting Victorious, I am constrained to pass over, and a lot that to me seems likely to include the winner is Victorious, Tostig, Alicante Martagon, Galway, and Oddfellow. That the last-named has shown us his best form in public is unlikely, and that he possesses more than an average turn of speed he proved at the last meeting, when he cut down Lady Yarmouth and Lenthorpe so readily over six furlongs. He cannot get the distance of next Wednesday's race therefore, if he be of the same mind as G. Barrett on the day, and I feel certain he must take an immense deal of beating. Alicante will prefer the shorter course, and in Fred Barrett's hand will lack nothing in the way of jockeyship. She has little or nothing the best of the hands; with Victorious, who is, I am assured, the best of Ryan's pair, and with ordinary luck will as nearly win as possible. Immediately after the Cesare witch I wrote that Ryan held the key to the situation with this horse and Martagon, whose excellent public trial in the Lancashire Plate caused him to become a strong general fancy; therefore in the knowledge of the great superiority of Victorious at the weights, I must give the latter the preference. Tostig has twice satisfied Morton of his great improvement, and I cannot oppose the judgment of such an experienced man as the Bedford Lodge trainer, who emphatically declares the colt cannot be beaten. He should be in a position to reduce the race to a certainty, one way or the other. Royal Star has again cleared out all of Sherwood's, but such an uncertain customer I must pass over and leave alone. L'Abbe Morin is a good rough outsider for those who delight in such, and I am warned that Westminster will get a place, even if he does not win outright, but I must stand to my guns, and I coupling

VICTORIOUS WITH TOSTIG

must select of this pair when telegraphing on Tuesday. For a place ODDFELLOW reads as attractive to me as Morion.

The Free Handicap, run on the Thursday, looks a good thing for MARTAGON, and the £1000 Flat on Friday I shall leave at present to SHEEN. The remaining items must be left for overnight consideration. Relative to the trial yesterday of Mr Hammond's horses, reports of the placings are very contradictory, some averring that Orve was first, others that Garter finished in front. There is no doubt, however, that Laureate was beaten, and to-morrow's market will be the best guide. METEOR.

SPORTING PROPHECIES.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE STAKES. Sportsman—Alicante. Sporting Life—Victorious or Martagon. Field—Tostig or Alicante. Land and Water—Alicante or Victorious. Licensed Victuallers' Gazette—Victorious or Sporting Times—Victorious. Criterion Stakes—Sportsman, Gouverneur, Sporting Life, Gouverneur or Potard; Field, Gouverneur. Land and Water, Gouverneur; Licensed Victuallers' Gazette, Gouverneur or Springtime; Sporting Times—Kate Allen. Dewhurst Plate—Sportsman, Corstorphine; Sporting Life, Orion or Valmaris; Field, Corstorphine; Land and Water, Corstorphine; Licensed Victuallers' Gazette, Corstorphine or Sibbionis; Sporting Times—Corstorphine. Criterion Nursery—Sportsman, Gay Minstrel; Sporting Life, Masournean or St. Kilda; Field, Masournean or High Havana; Land and Water, Gay Minstrel or Kate Allen; Licensed Victuallers' Gazette, Kate Allen or Furdham; Sporting Times, Gouverneur. Furdham Welter—Sportsman, St. Symphorien; Sporting Life, The Imp or Lightfoot; Field, Masournean or Goodlake; Land and Water, Lockhart or Heresy.

called to the alleged existence of such a fund, he applied to Superintendent Downes, of Macclesfield, and received from him the following letter:—"No. 8, Macclesfield Division, Cheshire Constabulary, Superintendent's Office, 19th January, 1890.—Sir, I have the honour to report for your information, in reference to memorandum dated 18th January, that there is a fund existing here from which constables receive £1 for the conviction of a poacher, which is paid by the Rev. —Dix, of Parkside. Before he took it in hand one of the Brooklehurst's paid it to the superintendent for him to give it to the constable. I believe this has been done for years. I do not know who the fund is maintained by, only that Mr. Dix told me that the magistrates and landowners subscribed and he acted as secretary.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant, JOSEPH DOWNES, Supt. Chief Constable of Cheshire, Chester." Upon receipt of this letter the chief constable at once wrote as follows:—"The receipt of such rewards by county constables must at once be discontinued unless specially sanctioned by me. Inform Mr. Dix of this effect, and warn the constables.—J. H. H., C.C. Chester, 21/1/90. Note and return, and report you have carried out above." Superintendent Downes reports on 29th January, 1890, "the above order has been carried out." Under these circumstances we applied to Mr. Dix, and he has informed us "that this fund originated about four years ago, after a discussion at a social gathering as to whether some legitimate scheme could not be adopted to intercept the spoils of poachers on the way to the market. That he was asked to be secretary, and that there were 15 subscribers, five of them being justices of the peace. It is reported to us in answer to our inquiries that there were no rules or regulations and no books of account, beyond a memorandum of the balance left in the hands of Mr. Dix when the chief constable issued his order in January, 1890, and that since that time the fund has practically ceased to exist. We cannot but express our opinion that the existence of a system of offering rewards in connection with game cases, when the earning of the reward depends upon the obtaining of a conviction, is objectionable, and calculated to impede the due and equitable administration of justice. We find that this allegation has been proved."

In their concluding remarks the sub-committee say—"We have now dealt with each specific charge contained in the memorandum of accusations, and, as a result of our investigation, we think it right to place on record our sense of the ability and devotion to duty which have characterized Colonel Hamersley's tenure of the office of chief constable. It is gratifying to us to find the general discipline and management of the force on a satisfactory basis, and that in so large a body of men a high percentage of good conduct is maintained."

A short discussion ensued on the reading of the report, and it was resolved that the report should be printed and circulated amongst members of the committee, members of the county council, and the magistrates of the county.—The Rev. C. Walley Dod announced that the cost of the inquiry was £602.—The accounts were passed for payment.

FIRES IN LIVERPOOL.

A WAREHOUSE DESTROYED.

At 3 45 a.m. yesterday news was received at the Central Fire Station, Hatton-garden, that in the warehouse in Queen-street, off Oldhall-street, registered as "145 Cowgill's," and held by S. B. Chambers, a fire of serious dimensions had been discovered. The steam fire engines "Rathbone" and "Clint," manned by a number of firemen, under Superintendent M'William, were soon taken to the spot, as also reels from the Prince's Dock station. Eight branches were got into play, but the huge flames and volumes of smoke which burst through the windows of the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth storeys indicated that the fire had secured a firm hold of the building. Between five and six o'clock the roof fell in, and a quantity of debris was shot into the street, but fortunately the firemen and policemen were warned in time. Despite the greatest exertion on the part of the men, the upper part of the warehouse could not be saved, and attention was then directed to saving the adjoining warehouses. At nine o'clock the fire was got under, but Inspector Nesbit and several firemen continued to pour water on the smouldering ruins. At a quarter-past two o'clock the back wall of the warehouses fell into Congreve-street, and damaged the front of a printing shop on the opposite side of the street. The extent of the damage to the building and contents—which is certainly very great—cannot be ascertained until the professional survey has been completed. The warehouse contained 4000 bales of American, Egyptian, and Surat cotton stored in the six storeys, and 400 of them were got out slightly damaged soon after the fire broke out. The remainder of the cotton has been seriously damaged by fire and water. The utmost anxiety was felt because at the west side of the warehouse are oil works. Soon after the flames were first observed the wooden staircase of the premises was consumed, and this, combined with the closed doors, rendered most difficult the work of extinguishing the flames. The salvage corps was also present.

At a few minutes to ten o'clock on Saturday night Mr. Parry, a hotel proprietor in Lord Nelson-street, while in his bedroom, noticed that a fire had broken out in the extensive tobacco factory of Messrs. Cope in that street, and at once raised the alarm at the Warren-street Fire Station. Word was telephoned to the Central Fire Station, and the firemen from that place, under Superintendent M'William, turned out with reels, and succeeded in extinguishing the flames in less than an hour. The fire, which broke out in the boxmaking room, was, by the efforts of the firemen, confined to that portion of the building, and thus serious damage was prevented.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

\* No Notice of Birth, Marriage, or Death can be inserted unless authenticated by the name and address of the sender. The charge for the insertion of such notices when prepaid is 1s. each, provided the space occupied does not exceed five lines, and 6d. per line for anything additional. A charge of 1s. extra will be made for booking.

BIRTHS.

BERTHOUD—Oct. 13, at 14, Albert-road, Southport, the wife of Henry Berthoud, of a son.

WOODBURN—Oct. 16, at Forest Gate, London, the wife of H. E. Woodburn, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

ELSWORTH—FENTON—Oct. 16, at St. Silas's Church, Sheffield, by the Rev. M. Wright, Frederick Sharp Elsworth, only son of George Elsworth, of Fazakerly, Liverpool, to Isabella Annie, the youngest daughter of the late John Frederick Fenton, of Sheffield.

MOGRIDGE—WRIGHT—Oct. 19, at Christ Church, Kensington, by the Rev. H. T. Deavall, Samuel Lever Mogridge to Sarah Ann Wright, both of this city.

DEATHS.

ALLEN—Oct. 17, at Acres-road, Lower Bebington, in his 45th year, George Allen. American papers please copy.

COOKE—Oct. 16, at Stockport, aged 38 years, Frances Cooke, wife of Robert Cooke, the dearly-beloved and second daughter of the late Charles Sladen, of Derby. Deeply regretted. She sleeps in Jesus. Derby papers please copy.

FITZSIMMONS—Oct. 19, at 10, Alroy-road, Anfield, aged six months, Norah M., the dearly-beloved and only child of J. M. and M. A. Fitzsimmons.

HAMPSHIRE—Oct. 18, aged 47 years, Alice Jane, daughter of Henry Joseph Hampshire, of the Cottage, Roby.

HUGHES—Oct. 16, at Llanerchymedd, Eleanor, eldest daughter of the Rev. John Hughes, D.D., Elm-grove, Carnarvon. Friends will kindly accept this the only intimation.

POWER—Oct. 18, aged 71 years, Captain Thomas Power, late of Canby-street, Liverpool, and formerly of Plymouth; for many years in the West Coast trade (South America). Plymouth papers please copy.

PURDIE—Oct. 18, at Deva Cottage, Oxton, aged 25 years, Florence, eldest daughter of Edwin H. Purdie. Intermittent at Playbrick Hill Cemetery to-morrow (Tuesday), at two o'clock. 20c21

QUINN—Oct. 17, at 60, Harwood-street, in his 32nd year, John Austin, eldest son of the late James William Quinn, both late of H. M. Customs. Please accept this the only intimation.

RICHARDSON—Oct. 17, at 2, Diana-street, Walton, William Richardson, aged 30 years. Will be interred at Anfield Cemetery this day, at four p.m.

SAVAGE—Oct. 15, at his residence, 39, High Park-street, William Savage, aged 75. Interred this day at Chester Cemetery. No cards.

SIMISTER—Oct. 17, at his residence, 293, Crown-street, in his 50th year, James Simister. Will be interred at Smithdown-road Cemetery on Wednesday afternoon next at three o'clock. No cards.

VICKERS—Oct. 19, at 3, Sandown Road, Egremont, William Vickers, clerk to the Wallasey Local Board. Friends will please accept this the only intimation.

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