

MAN O' WAR Horse of the Century?



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MAN O' WAR AND
SAMUEL D. RIDDLE



IS MAN O' WAR the horse of the century? This is the topic of topics wherever lovers of the thoroughbred and racing enthusiasts gather. The eastern race-going public has gone simply crazy over this 3-year-old chestnut colt by Fair Play-Mahubah, by Rock Sand, bred by Maj. August Belmont, owned by Samuel D. Riddle of Philadelphia, trained by Louis Feustel, ridden by jockey Clarence Kummer, and raced in the name of the Glen Riddle farm. His appearance packs the track to capacity. Crowds mill around the paddock to get a "close-up" of him. The thousands of horse-lovers can't get on him—his odds are prohibitive. They just want to see him. And the applause he gets—well, it's past all describing. There's only one trouble—he practically scares out all competitors. But to make amends he usually breaks a record.

Even veteran professional turf writers permit themselves to speak of Man o' War as the "undisputed champion of the American turf," "champion of champions among thoroughbreds past and present," and so on. Some of them get almost hysterical. Here's the New York Tribune, for instance, on Man o' War's performance in the Dwyer stakes at Aqueduct:

"Man o' War, the handsome 3-year-old chestnut colt of Samuel D. Riddle, which earlier this season had established himself as the greatest thoroughbred of the age, proved himself the horse of eternity at Aqueduct yesterday afternoon. One stops, awestruck, in contemplation of this, God's noblest handiwork in horseflesh. Words are inadequate to describe him. The great colt, the perfect horse, the irrepressible son of Fair Play, again did what no other horse of history ever had done: he ran a mile and a furlong in 1:49 1-5."

Man o' War is a great horse. Now, to discuss a thing intelligently it must be defined. So, what is a great horse? Well, a great horse, like a gentleman, is hard to define. But it is axiomatic that a great horse must have certain qualities. He must have speed. He must have courage. He must be able to carry weight. He must be able to go a distance. He must have the intelligence to play the game. He must be consistent in performance. He must be willing to do his best. Other desirable qualities are a good disposition, an equable temperament, a rugged constitution and a sound body. And above all he must have that indefinable something called class—that something which enables the stake horse to look up with the plater in the stretch, look him in the eye and go on to win.

It would seem too much to expect of horseflesh that any one individual should have all these qualities. Nevertheless, Man o' War apparently has them all. Anyway, here are some of the exact facts about this sensation of the racing season of 1920:

Man o' War is an aristocrat of aristocrats. Here, in brief, are his immediate family connections: Fair Play, by Bend Or-Dame Masham, by Galliard, was foaled in 1886 in England. Maj. August Belmont bought her in 1903 for \$18,000 at the McCalmont stud dispersal sale, sent her to his Nursery stud in Kentucky and mated her with Hastings. From this union in 1905 came Fair Play, the rival of the phenomenal unbeaten Colin in 1907 and 1908. When Colin broke down in the Tidal of 1908, Fair Play went on to win the Lawrence Realization, Coney Island, Jerome, First Special and Municipal, giving ten pounds to such broodmares as King James, Frank Gill and Hessian. Fair Play was a great racer. He is great sire, in that he has produced in Man o' War a horse greater than himself.

Fairy Gold, in 1913, gave to the turf Friar Rock, by Rock Sand, who in 1916 won both the Brooklyn and Suburban—something no other 3-year-old has

ever done. J. E. Madden bought him for \$50,000 and retired him to the stud. J. H. Rosseter, the California sportsman and breeder, bought Friar Rock and some mares and their foals for \$100,000. One of these foals, Incheape, hailed as a second Man o' War, was bought the other day by S. C. Hildreth for \$150,000. Mr. Rosseter let Incheape go because he thinks some of the others of this first crop of Friar Rock youngsters are better still, but he refused Hildreth's offer of \$250,000 for Friar Rock.

Mr. Riddle bought Man o' War on a bid of \$5,000 at the Belmont yearling sale of 1918 at Saratoga, at which three other colts brought upward of \$13,000 each.

As a 2-year-old Man o' War ran nine races and won them all except the Sanford Memorial at Saratoga. In that stake J. Loftus got him practically left at the post and he was beaten a neck by H. P. Whitney's Upset in 1:11 1-5. At the next meeting Man o' War beat Upset like breaking sticks. Incidentally, J. Loftus could get no license to ride this year.

Up to July 10 Man o' War had run five races this year and had won them all—the Preknack, Withers, Stuyvesant, Belmont and Dwyer.

As a 2-year-old he won \$83,325. His victory in the Dwyer brought his 1920 winnings to \$44,475, and made him the leading money-winning horse of the year. Were his owner a stake-hog instead of a sportsman, he could doubtless have won the rich Kentucky and Latonia derbies with the colt.

Man o' War as a 2-year-old met and defeated the best of his age, including Upset, Golden Broom, Blazes, King Thrush, Cleopatra, Dominie and John P. Grier. The racing world recognized his quality and asked: "Will he go on as a 3-year-old?" Man o' War answered the question by winning the Preknack at Pimlico last spring from Upset, Wildair and King Thrush in 1:51 3-5 for the mile and an eighth with 126 pounds up.

The champion's next appearance was in the historic Withers at Belmont May 29. He won from Wildair and David Harum, running the mile in 1:35 4-5 with 118 pounds up. This is a new American record, the fastest mile in actual racing. The record displaced was that of Sir Barton's 2:17 2-5 in 1913. It is also a world record. Dean Swift ran the distance in 1908 in 2:16 2-5 at Liverpool, England. Jockey Kummer sat still, neither restraining nor urging his horse. Man o' War ran to suit himself and wanted to go on at the finish. The course is like the letter S and partly it is training track.

Man o' War's race in the Dwyer at Aqueduct was a still greater performance. Here he scared out all of the 61 nominations except one. That one was John P. Grier, the best of the great H. P.

Whitney string of high-class 3-year-olds. Man o' War carried 126 pounds and John P. Grier 108. The shrewdest handicappers gave John P. Grier an undeniable chance and reckoned on a thrilling race. They got it. The two horses ran neck and neck to the last sixteenth. Here they went to the whip. John P. Grier cracked and Man o' War went on to win, ridden out, by a length and a hair.

The time, 1:49 1-5, is a new world record. The previous American was one-fifth of a second slower and was held jointly by Borrow and Boots. Brown Prince ran the distance in England in 1917 in 1:50 2-5 with 105 pounds up. The best Australian time is 1:52. Man o' War ran the quarter in 23 2-5, the half in 46, the three-quarters in 1:09 2-5, and the mile in 1:35 3-5. So the horse ran faster than the records all the way around. Donan's half-mile in 46 1-5 at Los Angeles has stood since 1900. Artful's three-quarters over the straight course at Morris Park in 1:09 3-5 has stood since 1904. The mile in 1:35 3-5 was one-fifth second faster than Man o' War's new record in the Withers.

Man o' War is watched day and night. His personal caretaker is Frank Loftus, Clive Gordon rides him in his work. His stable name is Red. He hasn't a mean hair on him. He has a tremendous appetite, sleeps like a tired boy and apparently has no nerves. The cheering crowds do not excite him. A race like the Dwyer does not upset him in the least. He is perfectly sound, has never been cut or bruised in a race and has never even sneezed since Mr. Riddle got him. And he'd rather run than eat. Those who know his work say he can break any record he goes after.

Man o' War seems to enjoy the parade and the applause and acts his prettiest. He is well-behaved at the post. He is a quick breaker. He runs with full enjoyment of the race. He travels so smoothly and with so little friction that experts pronounce his action perfection.

Clarence Kummer rode Man o' War in all his races this year. Two days after the running of the Dwyer, Kummer's mount, Costly Colors, fell and the jockey got a bad fall, which sent him to the hospital. It was said later by Mr. Riddle that Kummer would be in shape to ride Man o' War in his fall engagements.

Man o' War is not for sale at any price. Mr. Riddle was offered \$200,000 before the champion raced this year; the latest offer made public was \$200,000 by Joseph L. Murphy of Philadelphia. Mr. Riddle plans to have Man o' War carry the black and yellow silks for two years more and then put him at the head of the stud he is forming.

"Man o' War will never be permitted to leave this country," declares his proud owner. "He belongs to the people of the United States, who love a good horse, quite as much as he does to me. I regard myself merely as a custodian, having him in trust for the benefit of the American thoroughbred of the future."

The American Legion

(Copy for This Department Supplied by the American Legion News Service.)

WORLD TO BE REPRESENTED

Delegate Will Be Present at Cleveland Convocation, September 27-29, From All Countries.

All roads will lead to Cleveland so far as the American Legion is concerned when the second national convention opens in that city on September 27 to run for three days. Fifty thousand legionnaires, it is expected, will be present to march in the great opening parade, which will be headed by a battalion of 40 tanks.

Cleveland, in gala attire, will open her arms to the incoming veterans, and not only will the downtown district be decorated but all outlying sections as well will be arrayed with flags and bunting, and triumphal arches will be erected at the intersections of important streets.

Already the housing committee is busily engaged in planning for the accommodation of the legionnaires. Moonlight steamer rides on Lake Erie, shows, boxing bouts, outdoor "movies," dances and celebrations at the amusement parks are being planned by the committee on entertainment. Trips across the lake to Canada also are on the program.

The legionnaires are coming to the convention city from all over the world. From Yukon, in distant Alaska, a request has been sent for reservations and the post of the Legion in Paris has notified the committee that it will send a delegation across the Atlantic to attend. One post in Detroit is planning to charter a special boat upon which its 1,000 representatives will live during the convention. Delegates will also be present from Hawaii, the Philippines, Porto Rico and the Canal Zone, while representatives

CARE FOR WOUNDED BUDDIES

Nation-Wide Movement to Aid and Cheer Thousands of Wounded Men Now in Hospitals.

A nation-wide movement to care for the 17,000 ex-service men who are now in hospitals suffering from disabilities incurred in the service, has been launched by the American Legion through its Americanism commission. Bulletins have been issued to state chairmen asking them to organize local Legion post committees to co-operate with the hospitals for the entertainment of the men in the wards, and for their care after discharge.

Efforts will be made to provide visitors for those men who are confined to hospitals to mitigate the loneliness of their enforced inactivity, and in this part of the program the Women's Auxiliary is expected to be of particular value.

To men who are discharged individual assistance will be given by members of the local Legion post in securing work and in straightening out any difficulties that may arise in the matter of compensation, insurance and so on. A system of interstate co-operation will provide for every man who leaves a hospital in one state, a welcome in the state for which he is bound.

"If there is any one thing that all members of the Legion are agreed on more than anything else, it is that wounded men should be generously taken care of," declared Arthur Woods, chairman of the Americanism commission. "It is the personal contact with the man that counts. We must show him that we are genuine friends. And certainly, no man ever needs a shove upward more than a discharged, disabled service man who has to make up so much lost time under such tremendous handicaps. I know you will agree that this is a challenge to service on our part which we, of the Legion, will not ignore."

WAR ENDED KENTUCKY FEUDS

Youths and Mountaineer Parents Who Were Estranged, Brought Together at County Reunion.

The war has brought peace to the embattled mountaineers of the famous feudist counties of Garrard and Lincoln in Kentucky. For more than a generation these neighboring but not neighboring counties were estranged—the inhabitants of one being sworn enemies of the natives of the other and many were the brushes between them, which, though not bloodless altogether, happily produced no fatalities.

Then came the war and the youth of Garrard and Lincoln counties marched off together. They went overseas together and fought the Boche together, sharing together the dangers, discomforts and great moments of battle. The sea stood between them and the old quarrel at home. Little by little the ancient grudge faded away until the boys from Lincoln and the boys from Garrard were actually fraternizing in the rest billets back of the line.

They came home together. For the moment they had had enough fighting. They could see no point in keeping alive the traditional quarrel between their respective counties. So, recently officers of the American Legion posts of Stanford, county seat of Lincoln county and Lancaster, county seat of Garrard county, got together and agreed upon a grand reunion and "peace" celebration of the residents of both counties. The affair was held under the auspices of the Legion and old feudists whose sons shared the same shell hole together in France, shook hands for the first time in their lives and called it quits.

VETERAN OF TWO GREAT WARS

Adolph Lowe of Lansdale, Pa., Participated in Both the Civil and World Conflicts.

With the war between North and South in which he fought more than 50 years behind him, Adolph L. Lowe of Lansdale, Pa., in 1917 again entered the service of his country in the war with Germany and today at seventy-nine is one of the most remarkable members of the American Legion. His age, naturally enough, debarred him from going to sea three years ago with the navy, which he joined as a carpenter's mate and he was assigned to the base at Cherry-stone Island, Va., and later to the Norfolk navy aviation center, the Portsmouth naval hospital and the Virginia Beach rifle range.

Although he was denied sea service in the World War, Mr. Lowe saw enough action to last most men the rest of their lives during the Civil war. He took part in the bombardment of Fort Sumter and saw the Merrimac ablaze. Later in the blockade of Charleston and in naval engagements along the coast he went through hard and severe fighting.

Mr. Lowe says that the sea stories of Fenimore Cooper first brought to him the desire to follow the sea for a career. In 1859 he shipped for South America and the following year in Rio de Janeiro he swam a mile to the shore to sign as a midshipman on the U. S. sloop of war Seminole.

The Youngest Auxiliary Member.

Found—the youngest charter member of the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion. She is Helene Young, the eleven-months-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Young of William, Minn., and was taken in by the auxiliary of the Austin E. Hanscom Post.



C. C. CHAMBERS.

Chairman of General Committee of the American Legion Convention in Cleveland, September 27-29.

will come from the veterans' organizations of England, Canada and Belgium.

"It will be the first real convention of the Legion," said C. C. Chambers, head of the convention committee and himself an ardent Legion worker. "It will crystallize the aims and the usefulness of the organization for men who are in the Legion or who, as former service men, are fast coming into the Legion. The American Legion does not stand for one thing; it stands for many, and once headed in the right direction as this big gathering will head us, we will take our place as the one big body which serves ex-service men, and through them serves our country in every way that is substantial, progressive and constructive."

Every opportunity will be provided at the convention for reunions of divisions and units where men who have not seen each other since demobilization, will once more get together in comradeship. In this way the association of memories is counted on to still further cement the service men together in one big, forward-looking American body.

The convention is summoned, according to the call issued from national headquarters, for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, amending the national constitution and transacting any other business that may be brought before it.

More than 3,500 delegates and alternates are being selected to attend the convention. Representation in the gathering will be by state departments, each department being entitled to five delegates and one additional delegate for each one thousand members.

Pointed Out the Moral.

An American post in Pennsylvania recently conducted a discussion on "What the War Did For Me." Each member was called on to say in what way the war had influenced his life, for better or for worse. Many spoke of the conflict as a sort of dice box that had shaken them out of old ruts. A local newspaper made the incident the basis of an editorial pointing the moral that all men who are bogged in ruts should "fire themselves promptly and strike out on a new road."