

Evolution of the Trotter

How American Breeders in Fifty Years Have Brought to Perfection the Greatest and Most Useful Type of Horse the Cuning of Man Has Yet Produced.

Great nations produce great horses. The higher the civilization the purer are the equine breeds. In the ancient as well as the modern world this rule holds true, and the foremost races of men have always possessed the highest types of breeds of animal life.

A stranger who witnessed light harness sport, say, for the first time at Memphis recently, and who saw Lou Dillon trot in 1:58½, Major Delmar in 1:59½, and Dan Patch pace in 1:56¼, would naturally ask, how are these horses bred, and how long has it taken to bring the breed to such perfect speed perfection? He would be astonished to learn that the breed did not exist half a century ago; that in 1845, 2:30 was thought to be the speed limit, and that trotting races were rare, while now the continent is studded with stock farms, with many millions invested; that about 1,500 meetings are held annually, at which \$5,000,000 in stakes and purses are competed for, and that just as all countries go to England for the thoroughbred, so all the civilized world comes to America for the trotter.

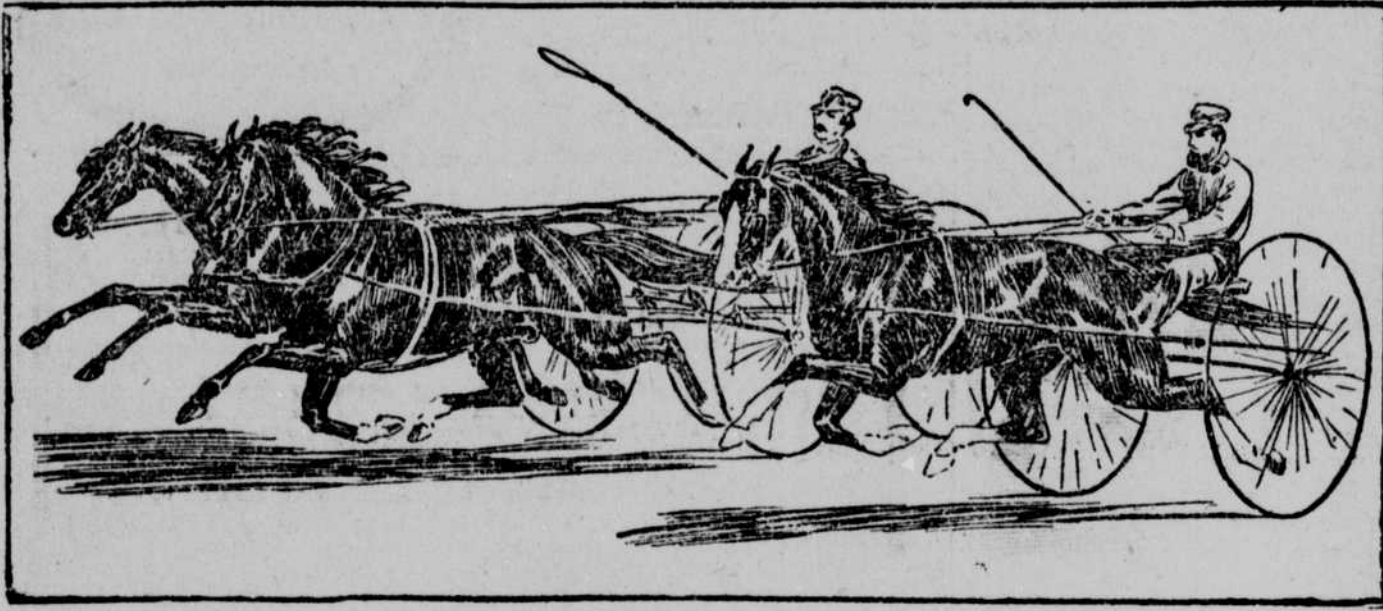
As speed is the test of the progress of the breed, and the record at the wire the proof of quality and value, it

but he was then bought by the late Robert Bonner for \$36,000 and at once retired. Four years later that most wonderful of all trotting mares, Goldsmith Maid, also driven by Budd Doble, went in 2:17. From year to year she cut down her time till, on Sept. 2, 1874, at Mystic Park, Boston, when 17 years old, she placed the trotting record at 2:14. In those days the sulkies weighed seventy-five pounds, the tracks were not improved and Doble is firmly of the opinion today that the marvelous Maid, had she been on the track at the present time, would have been a champion. Goldsmith Maid was an "Irish" being by Abdallah 15, a son of Hambletonian, while her dam was Ab, by Abdallah 1, the sire of Hambletonian.

While the number of fast horses steadily increased and the stock farms were not only increasing their output, but breeding more intelligently for the great object in view, the record was not again broken till Aug. 3, 1878, when John Splan, at Buffalo, trotted Ramus in 2:13¼. He was at once retired, as Mr. Bonner bought him for \$35,000 and sent him to his stables, where he had previously sent Dexter. These sensational prices gave addi-

tion to the idea that the small tire wheel would get round turn quicker, and that there would be far less resistance than with the old high wheels, with steel tires. They were introduced in 1832, and there was at once a startling reduction in time. Nancy Hanks who in 1891 had trotted in 2:09 with the old wheels, in 1892 in a grand series of performances successively reduced her record to 2:04. She is by Happy Medium, dam Nancy Lee, by Dictator, both of Hambletonian. Two years elapsed before there was any reduction, and then came to the front the beautiful and symmetrical mare, Alix, by long odds the greatest combination of speed, proportion, style and quality which had yet appeared upon the trotting turf. After a grand racing career, in which she defeated all comers, at Galesburg, Ill., Sept. 19, 1894, she trotted in 2:03¼.

For six years the battle was waged against time and every assault was a failure until the priests of finality declared that the time limit had been reached at last. The mares had certainly had a long reign, but with the new century the records began to go with startling rapidity. The Abbot



Match Race Between Ethan Allen and Mate and Dexter to High-Wheel Sulky.

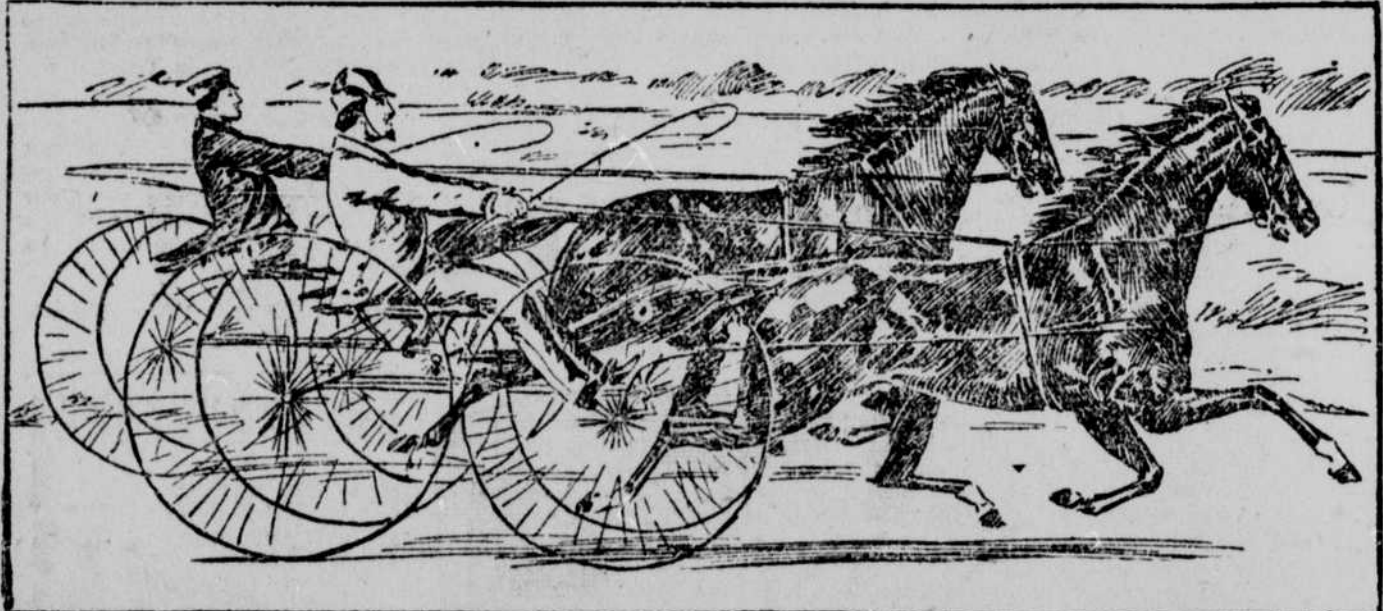
will be of interest to note the development from the date when the famous Lady Suffolk first trotted in 2:30 or better in 1845 to the present time, when the record is 1:58½. On Oct. 13, 1845, the little gray mare Lady Suffolk, at the Beacon course, Hoboken, N. J., trotted in 2:29½. Through her sire, Engineer, and the sire of her dam, Don Quixote, she traced direct back to Messenger. In 1849 Pelham, of unknown pedigree, reduced the record to 2:28. He was a converted pacer, which shows that even at that early period the interchangeability of the gaits was understood. Highland Maid, another ex-pacer, in 1853 reduced the mark to 2:27. Then came the remarkable mare, Flora Temple, who, over the Union course, East New York, driven by that first great knight of the sulky, Hiram Woodruff, went under the wire in 2:24¼. Flora Temple continued her victorious career till she, at Kalamazoo, Mich., on Oct. 15, 1859, trotted in 2:19¼, being the first of her race to get below 2:20.

tion impetus to the great breeding interests, and from that time on the record moved down rapidly. In 1879 St. Julien, by Volunteer, he by Hambletonian, at Oakland, Cal., went in 2:12¼, and later reduced it to 2:11¼. Then came that great queen of the trotting turf, Maud S., by Harold, Harold was by Hambletonian, dam Enchantress, by Abdallah 1, the sire of Hambletonian. On Aug. 12, 1880, at Rochester, N. Y., she trotted in 2:11¼, and then went on to 2:10¼, 2:10¼ and 2:10¼, and the trotting world saw that 2:10 was in sight. Everybody looked for the great daughter of Harold to do it. But out of the west came the black whirlwind, Jay-Eye-See, who at Providence, R. I., Aug. 1, 1884, placed the record at 2:10. Jay-Eye-See was by Dictator (brother to Dexter, 2:17¼) by Hambletonian. He was the monarch of a day, for at Cleveland on Aug. 2, Maud S. trotted in 2:09¼, and regained her throne. Her final triumph came a year later, when over the same track she cut the

by Chimes, a grandson of Hambletonian, on September 25, 1900, clipped half a second off the record, and a few months later, on July 26, 1901, at Cleveland, O., the mighty Cresceus, the first stallion to win the world trotting record, shot under the wire in 2:02¾. A week later, at Columbus, he cut it to 2:02¼.

When the season of 1903 opened even in the best informed circles there was not the slightest expectation of any reduction of the trotting record. Major Delmar had a record of 2:05½, but no one saw in him a future champion. Lou Dillon was an unknown quantity. Her pedigree goes up to Hambletonian through Sidney Dillon and Happy Medium, though about 50 per cent of her pedigree is unknown as thoroughbred. At Readville, Mass., on August 24, she trotted in 2:00 and thus realized the dreams of the enthusiasts who have predicted that time as the ultimate limit and perfection mark of the breed.

This looked like glory enough for



Ethan Allen and George M. Patchen in Skeleton Wagons.

The record was hailed as the limit at the gait, while a few visionaries talked of a possible 2:10, while here and there was an enthusiast who talked of two minutes.

In 1867 the brown gelding Dexter, by Hambletonian 10, dam Clara, by American Star, at Buffalo, N. Y., cut the record to 2:17¼. He was driven by Budd Doble, then a young man and still on the turf in all the vigor of a green old age. Dexter at that time was nine years old and would in all probability have reduced his record,

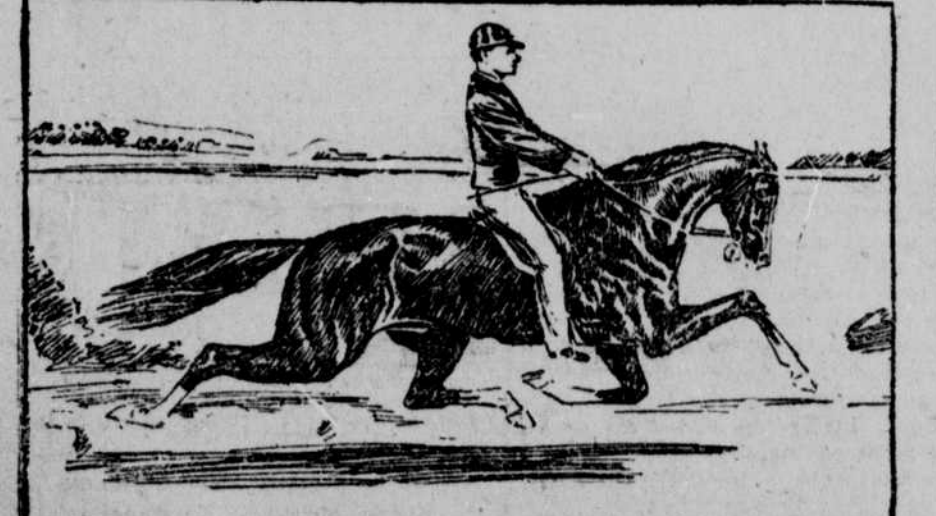
record down to 2:08¾. Mr. W. H. Vanderbilt had in the meantime sold her to Robert Bonner for \$40,000, and she was duly retired. It has always been a universal regret that this great mare never had a foal. The last of the old high-wheel sulky champions was Sunol, who in 1891 over the kite track at Stockton, Cal., went in 2:08¼, and again Mr. Bonner's desire to own champions was so great that he paid \$41,000 for her.

The marvelous speed achieved by bicyclists led horsemen and the manu-

one season, but in the meantime a new star had appeared in the bay gelding Major Delmar, who had entered the ring in a fight to a finish with Father Time. Starting the season with a record of 2:05½ in a series of brilliant performances he cut it down in sections till finally on Sept. 25, at the Empire City track, he went in 2:00 and divided regal honors with Lou Dillon. Major Delmar belongs to the Electroener-Wilkes branch of the trotting family.

This looked like the climax, but nature rarely stays still. On October 20, at Wichita, Cresceus trotted in 1:59¼, and Oct. 24, Lou Dillon regained her throne by trotting in 1:58½.

The story of the trotter would be incomplete without a note as to his value. The highest price ever paid for a trotter was \$125,000, at which figure J. Malcolm Forbes bought the 2-year-old trotter Arion, 2:10¼, from the late Senator Leland Stanford. While a few thoroughbreds have been sold at a higher figure, this is still the high water mark for a 2-year-old of any breed. Axtell, 2:12, the champion three-year-old stallion of his time, brought \$105,000, and \$150,000 was refused for his stable companion, Allerton, 2:09¼. Mr. Smathers paid \$40,000 for Major Delmar, a gelding, "Dexter," in the New York Sunday



Dexter, With Budd Doble in the Saddle.

NEBRASKA STATE NEWS

PROGRESS OF EDUCATION.

Students Are Better Prepared for College.

It has been currently reported this fall by instructors and others in the colleges and normal schools of Nebraska that never before in the history of the state have the members of the freshman classes been so well prepared for their studies. The rumors interested State Superintendent Fowler to such an extent that under date of October 24 he sent the following letter to the heads of the state university, the state normal school, four of the leading colleges of the state and the three largest normal schools:

"The claim has been made that the students entering the colleges and normal schools of Nebraska this fall are better prepared for the work they are to do in these institutions than ever before. This is a matter of great interest to me, and I would be pleased to receive from you at an early date an expression of your opinion. Are the matriculates of 1903-4 better prepared to take up collegiate work in your institution than those of past years? In other words, does your institution not need to maintain as much preparatory or academic work this fall as in previous years for its freshmen classes? If this condition be true, what conclusion do you draw from it?"

TURKEYS ARE SCARCE.

Fremonters May Have to Eat Plain Chicken Thanksgiving.

FREMONT—Fremonters may have to fall back on chickens this year for their Thanksgiving dinners, on account of the prices that are being asked for turkeys. Twenty cents a pound is what the dealers say they will have to charge. Too much wet weather during the summer is given as the cause of the dull condition in the turkey market. Many of the young fowls were drowned during the August and September floods, and even the older birds on some farms lost their lives.

But the crop of chickens, ducks and geese is fully up to the average. While the heavy rains were playing havoc with turkeys, they were just what pleased ducks and geese. These are practically as succulent and toothsome as turkeys, and will be sold at former prices, or about 12½ cents a pound for young stuff. Thus it will be unnecessary to cut out the Thanksgiving dinner because the American bird has not been able to withstand the Nebraska climate.

Husks Corn for Wager.

DAKOTA CITY—George Hirschbach, the champion corn husker of this section, has wagered with an Iowa man that he can husk and crib 150 bushels of corn in ten hours. The contest will be pulled off about Thanksgiving.

Collision on the Elkhorn.

VALENTINE—Train No. 6, east-bound on the Elkhorn, stopped at Crookston for water and a cattle train following crashed into the rear, smashing the sleeper so it had to be left. Nobody was hurt, but the passengers were badly frightened and shaken up.

Looking Into Harbert Case.

LINCOLN—Governor Mickey has ordered an investigation in the case of J. C. Harbert, fireman at the Kearney industrial school, who has been arrested by the Beatrice police while in company with a young Beatrice girl who, upon being "scolded" by her mother for being too often with Harbert, knocked her parent down and choked her. Harbert has a wife at Kearney. If found guilty he will be discharged from the employ of the state.

Hay Stacks Burred.

NEILSON—A steam thrasher engine passing along the road by Frank Spurck's hay fields set fire to the grass and before it could be extinguished three large hay stacks, about thirty tons, had been consumed.

Highwayman's Victim Dead.

RED CLOUD—John Anshutz, the farmer who was held up by a highwayman and shot near his home in Kansas, thirteen miles southwest of here, died from his wounds.

Safe in Bank Blown.

LYONS—The safe in the First National bank here was blown at 2 o'clock in the morning. The robbers secured \$2,000, of which \$1,500 was in bills, \$400 in gold and \$100 in silver. The robbers were not seen by any one. At the eastern edge of town they stole a team from the barn of E. H. Harendeen, a farmer, and drove eastward. The bank safe and all the furniture in the bank were utterly ruined.

THE STATE AT LARGE.

Charles F. Higgins of Omaha died suddenly in his chair while serving as a juror.

The new union depot in Fremont will be ready for occupancy in December.

For stealing four turkeys two men in Cass county were sentenced to imprisonment for thirty days.

Death is announced of H. A. Burdill of Fremont, who had resided there for twenty-five years.

Near Decatur, Albert Fuller, a farmer boy, 17 years old, was dangerously hurt by the explosion of a gun while out hunting.

Typhoid and scarlet fever are prevalent at Papillion. There have been several fatalities from typhoid. School has been closed for a period.

Washington dispatch: The senate in executive session confirmed the following nomination: Church Howe, Nebraska, consul general at Antwerp.

Mr. and Mrs. George F. Norton of Beatrice celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary. They have been residents of that city for a great many years.

The Clark Automatic Telephone company of Sioux City is putting in a rural telephone line to run out from Dakota City, covering a distance of about thirty miles.

W. J. Dresser, the man who gave himself up to Sheriff Bauman of Dodge county, stating that he was an escaped convict from the Iowa state penitentiary, was released. It was learned from the Iowa authorities that Dresser had been released on parole, but had violated the terms of his release.

A young man by the name of Donaldson, living five miles southwest of Palmer, while in the field husking corn accidentally discharged a gun with the muzzle towards him. The entire charge, after passing through the end-gate of the wagon box, lodged in his side. A favorable outcome is doubtful.

The jury in the case of Robert Wagner vs. the city of Columbus returned a verdict awarding the plaintiff damages in the sum of \$400. Wagner fell on a defective sidewalk last March and sued the city for \$5,000. Judgment was entered on the verdict and the amount will probably be paid without any further litigation.

On account of insufficient room to accommodate the new offices of clerk of the district court and assessor the commissioners of Sarpy county have decided to enlarge the court house.

Burglars attempted early in the morning to enter the residence of Mrs. Ida Bell at York, but when they heard the many burglar alarm bells and saw the entire house immediately lighted from cellar to garret they decamped.

John Crown, an aged resident of Tecumseh, narrowly escaped losing his life under the wheels of a moving stock train. The train was doing some switching in the yards, and was backing down over the street crossing when the old gentleman attempted to cross. The moving cars struck him in the back and knocked him down, and would have crossed over his body had it not been for the prompt action of F. A. Thiele, who happened to be standing near.

An extra freight train, west bound, was wrecked on the Rock Island near Lewistown. Eight cars left the track and rolled down an embankment fifty feet high. The cars were loaded with coal, potatoes and lumber.

Advices received by stockmen at the union stock yards in South Omaha are to the effect that no tariff legislation whatsoever, affecting western interests, will be accomplished this winter. This broad statement appears to include the Cuban treaty which western beet growing interests affirm will seriously damage the beet sugar industry in Colorado and Nebraska.

Judge Baxter has signed a decree in the foreclosure suit brought by Eliza B. Patrick on the home property of Former Senator John M. Thurston, "Thorwald," at 24th and Farnam streets, Omaha. Suit was brought on a \$12,000 mortgage, which with interest amounts to \$13,152.20. Judgment is rendered for that amount, but the defendant is given twenty days in which to make payment, before the property will be ordered sold.

One of the most prominent citizens and Grand Army men of Osceola met with a severe accident. He was trimming trees and in pulling down a limb while standing in a wagon he frightened the horses and they ran. Mr. Pulver was thrown to the ground, striking on his head and shoulders.

Mrs. Anna M. Ludeman has commenced suit against August Moeller, a saloon keeper at Goehner, and his bondsmen, for \$5,000 for selling her husband liquor by which she says he has been made an habitual drunkard.

PLANS THAT WENT WRONG.

Showing How Hard It Is to Drive Folks into Matrimony.

Once upon a time, before everybody had learned to attend strictly to his own affairs, a man and a maid were in love with each other, but, though this was patent to all their friends, neither of them knew it. However, their friends said unanimously: "We will demonstrate it to them and write a triumphant Q. E. D. upon their wedding morn."

Therefore, the maid never was invited anywhere that she did not find the man invited also; nor was the man invited anywhere but that he found the maid likewise a guest. Furthermore, the man always was detailed to take the maid in to dinner, and they could not so much as glance at each other without everybody else having an errand out of the room, and society became a vast manufactory of opportunities for them to revel in each other's company alone and undisturbed. Now, before this had time to become a habit with them, both the man and the maid penetrated the dark plot.

Whereupon the maid tossed her head, saying: "They needn't think I have only one chance," and immediately betrothed herself to an impecunious fortune hunter whose only recommendation was his title.

And thereupon the man hastily married himself to a grass widow from Chicago, whose reputation, they do say, was responsible for the big fire.

Consequently all their friends nodded their heads sagely, and whispered to each other, "Didn't I tell you so?"—Alex Ricketts in Philadelphia Ledger.

Medieval Marconi.

Several old writers mention mysterious methods of aerial communication, and Strada, an Italian antiquary who wrote during the 16th century, describes an invention having an extraordinary resemblance to Sig. Marconi's present-day wonder.

Strada says that two friends about to be separated each procured a needle magnetized at the same odestone and affixed them to swing on dials marked with the letters of the alphabet.

They agreed that, at certain specified periods after they parted, each should retire into a private apartment with this apparatus; and thereafter, by directing the needle to the letters necessary to spell out their meaning, the pair were able to convey their thoughts in an instant to one another across the continent, as Strada puts it, "over cities or mountains, seas or deserts."

This, at the last, is an astonishing forecast, and may be a fact, for to expound such a scheme at that period was to chance being burnt as a sorcerer—a risk Strada would be unlikely to run for mere fiction.—Stray Stories.

A Song of Hope.

Here's a think I guess you hadn't
Never thought,
An' if so, you hain't been happy
As you ought,
It's a thought to make you glad,
For a feller can't be sad
When he sees th' things a-comin'
That he's ought.

This is it: Th' furdur on we
Mortals go,
All th' brighter does th' future's
Promise grow.
Some keeps harpin' on th' past
Wishin' childhood's joy might last—
Hain't got time fer any sich a
Bunch o' woe.

Ev'ry day since I been livin'
I have found
Lots an' lots o' hope an' sunshine
Scattered 'round,
Life's brimful o' love an' light
If a feller lives it right—
Always got th' best time comin',
I'll be bound.

I ain't been along th' road as
Fur as some,
But she's kep' a-gittin' better
As I've come
'Twill be better still, next year
Sure as I'm a-settin' here,
Lookin' back I'll see some mountains
I have clumb.

Chirk up, growler; light yer face up
With a smile;
Better walkin' on ahead here
'Bout a mile
Keep a-singin' songs o' hope,
Never set around an' mope;
Fer this life grows sweet an' sweeter
All th' while.

Immense Piece of Building Stone.

The largest and heaviest building stone ever quarried in England was taken from the Plankington bed, near Norwich. It was in one piece, without crack or flaw, and weighed over thirty-five tons.

Swiss Hotels.

There are now 2,000 hotels and pensions in Switzerland, employing something like 35,000 persons during the summer season. It is estimated that 380,000 people visit Switzerland in the season and spend about \$25,000,000 there.

Record Tea-Drinkers.

The Australians are the greatest tea drinkers in the world, annually consuming 7½ pounds per head. In England the consumption is about 6½ pounds per head, and in the United States only 1 pound 2 ounces.

Long-Lived Horses.

A good authority on horses says that the grey will live the longest, and that the roans come next in order. Blacks seldom live to be over twenty and creams rarely exceed ten or fifteen.

Holland's Irrigation Works.

Holland has 10,100 windmills, each of which drains 310 acres of land, at an average cost of 25 cents an acre a year.

The Tall and the Short.

Norwegians and Lapps, the tallest and the shortest people of the world, live side by side.

Spread of Temperance.

One man in six in the British navy is a total abstainer.