### THE SPRING DUCK SHOOTING

The Editor, Brewer and Lawyer in the Sandhill Marshes,

BLACKSTONE GETS A CRACK AT A WOLF

Arrival of the Ball Players-Preliminary Work at the Park-All Showing Up Well-The Spring Schedule of Games.



VIDENTLY the spring wild fowl shooting even in this usual rare par dise of feathered game, it practically over and from every 'quarter come only reports of failure and disappointment There was but little water and but little feed, as I codeavored to fore-

tell weeks ago, and the result was all that could have that could have been rationally expected. There was but trifling inducement for the winged hordes to lay off here when on to the north, in measureless grandeur, stretch vast expanses of

water and teeming feeding grounds. Inatinctively, or in aerial vision, the birds detect this and it has only been from theer necessity of rest, or indifference to fatted lands, that canvasback, redhead or mallard has dropped down in whilom haunts for brief tarrying.

These are the facts which always presen themselves to the true sportsman, the one who goes forth to learn, as the scholar goes to school, and be his success what it may, he never becomes irrecoverably regretful. He finds his acqual outing just as glorious, just as beneficial, as if the birds swarm in lagoon and marsh as plentiful as the cleadea swarm in July's burning sun. He never fails to find shooting enough to keep the blood in healthy circulation, and gets what game he actually wants, even though it requires a little harder labor than common. It is not the true sportsman who is disappointed in times like these, but that class who only care to hear the roar of their guns, and to whom a commingling with nature is a positive bore untheir murderous instincts can be stantly appeased. When the killing ceases their enjoyment is at an end. But to the other class, an outing is an outing alwaysglorious, incomparable sport. The sky never looks bluer, the grass greener or water brighter, than when once adrift in marsh or meadow. To him is welcome every sight and every sound that comes from earth or air. Nothing can compare with his happi-ness, nothing is half so stirring, half so grand or exhibitance. A tramp afield with the multifarious perfumes of budding land and gurgling stream, the music of bird and breeze, and the flutter of reviving life of all kinds, filling all his senses, is the very aeme of mental and physical delight, the intenser pleasures of life, ever spread before him with a beneficent hand. He is a lover of nature the true sportsman. His tastes are in-herited and inbred, and successful or unsuccessful in the baser aim of destruction, he would not exchange one day's sweet com-mune with all outdoors for weeks and months of the ordinary pastimes which engross mankind. Once a sportsman, always a sportsman, and the whole twelve months

contains no joy so supreme as the hour when

he dons the picturesque raiment of his

vocation and sallies forth upon his annual

Soft and showery April is now upon us, and the shooting season is on the wane. In the reedy marshes out at Hamilton's, at Lugenbeel and the upper Platte, the musk-rat houses are affoat in rising waters, while the rats themselves are cutting high didoes in sun and starlight, untranmeled by icc or the trapper. snow, cleaving the warming waters in their The distant hills are putting on an eyes; the yellow grass is greening at the roots, and along lake shore and rippling rill

No sweeter days are there than these of April, filled with their soft airs and soothing sounds, the dreary gray of the whole landscape blending with the dawning

I got back from my spring hunt a week ago, after spending ten most enjoyable days at Hamilton's cosy hostelry in the Deuel county sandhills. Charlle Metz and Will would fain have lingered there in blessed county sandhills. ing was the poorest ever known here, we profited by every moment spent there, and returned to the city bronzed and vigorous, and nearly as well satisfied as if we had brought a carload of ducks along with us instead of a few dozen. Of course we took a Pullman to Lakeside, and ever the delightful B. & M. the trip was a most enjoyable one. arrived at the station early on the morning of the 17th. Major Mackey and Colonel of the 17th. Major Mackey and Colonel Sutton, two of Hamilton's assistants, in big wagons, were awaiting us, and after a hountcous breakfast at the Briggs house we started for the sandhills, Sutton hauling the light of three pair of visual organs.

SANDY GRISWOLD. started for the sandhills, Sutton hauling the luggage and Mackey the hunters.

is a long way down to the lakes, and our journey was a tiresome and weary one, yet not without its excitements and interesting incidents. Plain and hill was covered with snow and under the warming rays of the sun formed a glittering, blinding expanse, men mentioned: sun formed a glittering, blinding expanse, which was extremely hard upon the eyes. But we had plenty of good cigars and a big.
But we had plenty of good cigars and a big.
arranging boxing contests is the mutual agreement on a referee. There are many men who are willing to officiate in such a position,

The Walsh family are schedulet for a good money-making game next Sunday. On that day they will enter into their third fight with an opposition association tam—Gatewood's St.

Joes. The cranks are all crazy to see the with our sight-seeing and our songs and stories the time slipped away on silvered stories the time slipped away on silvered who are willing to officiate in such a position, Joes. The cranks are all crazy to see the Gomahogs in actual battle and this being one the way, but they were all frozen up, solid as marble, and we saw but two or three serve as referee, that are in any way actual battle and this being one through the gates. little bunches of geese and ducks. We quainted with the duties of the position. reached what is known as the sheep ranch about 10:30, and, as this is the half-way point are in no way familiar with the rules. between Lakeside and Hamilton's, we pulled In the days gone by Al Smith and Jere up for a rest and refreshments. Our halt Dunn made excellent referees and their was brief. A duck hunter is always impatient and we were soon earoute again, test was to be on its merits, and that rules. We were slowly crawling over one of the numerous low ridges which cross and rechance for any bulldozing or swaying the numerous low ridges which cross and re-cross the road to Hamilton's, when we came suddenly upon a huge gray wolf. He was trotting leisurely along the trail, going the same direction we were probably naking for trotting leisurely along the trail, going the So great was the public confidence in Al same direction we were, probably making for Smith's integrity that principals in a contest his lair in the hills after a night's maraud did not hesitate to mutually request his serv-against some ranchman's stock. Hearing our lices as referee, even when it was known that against some ranchman's stock. Hearing our approach he deliberately stopped in the middle of the road and, half turning, gazed defaulty at us a moment, but the next instant, as the lawyer was about to swing harmorless upon him, he was off across the snow covered plain like a scared rabbit. With a quotation from the Methodist Hymnal, Billy banged away at him, and, although fully 150 yards away, we saw the

mow fly in his wake, as with increasing celerity he lengthened out his long, gaunt form until all we could discern was a streak of gray against the background of white. He quickly reached a stretch of brown rushes bordering some shallow lake's bed, and the next second was buried from

sight.
"There has been a power of welves bout here this winter," observed Mackey, "and they have killed lots of good cattle." "You don't tell me that they kill cattle, you!" inquired the knowledge seeking

brewer, as he relighted his cigar. Yes, indeed they will, or horses, either, They are as powerful as they are sneaking, and seem to kill stock from sheer murderous instinct and nothing else, as they sel-dom eat but a triffe out of the neck or hams, and seldom return to the same carcass twice but go off and kill a fresh animal, eat a

and a jump and hamstring the poor animal as deftly as the skilled surgeon could with its knife. They generally hunt in pairs, and after one has hainstrung his victim, the other flies at his throat. It takes them but short time to get the beast down and kill

"Has there been any killed round here this

Yes, several. Gus Rudolph-Gus is the trapper Sandy wrote up a year ago in his 'Home of the Canvasback' series in The Boe—and an Englishman named John Wright have killed several this winter, and coyotes, badger, skunk, rat and other varmint until you can't rest. Gus and John have been trapping down in our country all winter. They've got a shack near Hamilton's and are shootin' for the market now. And, I say, Sandy," turning round in the wagen and facing me, "don't you fail to have Gus tell you 'bout killin' Old Limpy-"
"Old Limpy-whose Old Limpy?" I in-

Well, sir, Old Limpy is, or was, rayther, the biggest gray wolf in all these hills—he's been here for years and years, and there is not a trapper or ranchman within a hundred who has not wasted weeks and months to kill him; but they couldn't come -that is, not until the last week in Febuary, when Gus and John, after a week's base, got him cornered over on the Blue and gave him his quietus. He was a now erful big fellow, and his hide, grizzly white, is a bute, and I reckon it is worth some money to anybody who wants an extra good specimen. Gus and John get \$25 bounty for every big wolf they kill, and generally the stockmen chip in and make up quite a decent reward on the side. But Gus'll tell you all about it when you go over to his shack some evening."

It was now afternoon, and we had crossed he last ridge of hills save one ere we reached the valley of Goose lake, where in March, '94 the lawyer and I made the biggest kill of canvasback ever made in the state of Nebraska.

The rays of the sun had been growing warmer and warmer, and the gentle winds balmier and balmier, as the day advanced, and when we finally struck the head of the valley above mentioned, the beautiful had almost entirely disappeared from the earth. White splotches, dotting the universal greenish brown here and there, alone remained, and there was every indication that a spell of delightful spring weather was upon us.

"Hello! there goes a skunk-there's a chance for you to distinguish yourself, Mr. Simeral," and Mackey pointed to the little animal as he was waddling away through the short buffalo grass.

But he was on my side, and I was out first and Lefever in hand took after him. He was making for the selvage of tall rushes and reeds off two or three hundred yards, and and trimmings. Kept in scrupulously near hampered with a big ulster I saw that he condition, as Captain Walsh will insist upon. hampered with a big ulster I saw that he would reach there before I could get close enough for a good shot. So I stopped and let him have it at long range. He halted instantly at the report of my piece and his beautiful bushy tail, bristling out to its fullest dimensions, was hoisted over his striped back. I didn't go any farther, but turning, made my way back to the wagon involved in an

mown hay or the delicate fragrance of red But about skunks. Of all fur-bearing animals, save the muskrat, they abound in the lake region of the sandhills the most plentiful, and are a considerable source of revenue to

atmosphere that bore no suspicion to new

The skunk is a pretty animal in his glorsy garment of black mad love chases, and whimpering plant. With in the excess of vernal pleasures. With raucous clamor, the wild fowl have up and sped away to their breeding haunts of the little white fur; in others broad streaks extend the whole length of the body. The adult the whole length of the body. The adult is a same hing ever twenty inches farther north. Stragglers linger, of course, and animal measures some hing ever twenty inches and afternoon, at the park, and put through and yonder an old manard nen, in her har-monizing colors of yellowish brown, cuts the in length, and the tail, which is his crowning a systematic course of training. Walsh is a monizing colors of yellowish brown, cuts the smooth surface above submerged tangle of flag and splatterdock, into feathery wakes, coasting the sedgy shores in quest of laggard companions, poking into this nook, craning than it really is. They live in holes in the story lake shore and the tan, which is his crowning a systematic course of training. Walsh is a glory, from seven to nine inches. It is very busby and when the animal is moving looks much larger depended on to get the very best work they companions, poking into this nook, craning than it really is. They live in holes in the story of the story lake shore and the tan, which is his crowning a systematic course of training. Walsh is a systematic course of training. that, as if actually contemplating the the ground near some rushy lake shore, and St. Joe will be here for three games, on the assumption of maternal cares. A pair of subsist upon the young and eggs of all kinds lith, 12th and 13th. Manager Gatewood is blue-wing teal rise to flight with a splash of birds, on gophers, tender grasses, roaebuds extremely ambitious to down the representablue-wing teal rise to flight with a spiash of birds, on gophers, tender grasses, rosebuls from out a ferzy cove a you advance, the swarming blackbirds fill the swaying reeds or dart in erratic showers in this direction and that, filling the lazy air with their tinkling notes, and confusing both sight and beauty will go will remain for months and the same of birds, on gophers, tender grasses, rosebuls extremely ambitious to down the representatives of his native burg, but can he do it? That is the question. Following St. Joe. Jimmy Manning's Cowbays will be here. They come on the 19th, 20th and 21st, and beauty will remain for months and the same of the same hearing, while all about you, from drift of molested they will remain for months and em. The Kansas Citys this season, so it hay and leaves and weeds, wells up the years without giving any symptom of their looks on paper, anyway, are not nearly up to crackling croak of awakening frogs, and the presence by the emission of the offensive the standard of gentle James' usual mob. He crackling croak of awakening frogs, and the break in the greenish waters tell where bass fluid for which they are infamous. This fact or pickerel disports his graceful shape. The alone proves how ludicrous is the belief that omaha should be more than able to hold sweet and grateful fragrance of thawing soil the urine of this animal is the source of its her own with them. On the 23d, 24th and

blasts. The distant hills are putting on an from the off nearer arm of ice, as we ap-emerald tinge, as viewed through half-closed proached, and bore over the sandhills to the

"And had your little bon-fire!" curiously

quizzed the brewer, with a wink at me.
"The very same—but I say, Sandy, will you ever forget the first morning we pulled dawning up over there and gazed out over those lovely colors of the bridal garments of another waters? Wasn't that a time for you-sixtythree canvasback in two hours' shooting! Will it ever happen again?" Pleasant indeed was the retrospection

memory and dreamed over and over again the happy hours we spant together there. Another half hour and we pulled up at Hamilton's, and found Canvasback open to receive us, everything as neat and tidy as the most scrupulous house wife could make it, from the snowy linen on the beds to polished puncheons We the floor,

"This is a palace!" ejaculated the brower,

Some Famous Referees.

The following appeared in last week's issue of Richard K. Fox's Police Gazette, accom-

present marquis of Queensberry rules, for

Tim Hurst, the present official of the Seaside Athletic club, is an unprejudiced, fairminded man and a capable referee. So is Honest John Kelly, who decided the Corbett-Mitchell fight in Jacksonville a year ago. Boston can also boast of some excellent eferces. Among them are Jimmy Colville. Spencer T. Williams, Doc O'Connell and John Kelliher, Colville has had an experience

th puglists over twenty-five years and is a referee after the style of Al Smith. Philadelphia has some acceptable men, who ave had much experience as referees. little more, then on to another. Sometimes they kill as high as half a dozen head in a night."

"How do they get at it, Mackey; do they run them down?"

"Hardly ever. They get close down to the ground on their bellies and crawl slowly and by degrees on an unsuspecting steer or horse, and when close enough give a run and a jump and hamstring the poor animal son of Denver. This last quartet are very son of Denver. This last quartet are very efficient and know all the points of the game. Any boxer that would not accept either of them is looking for more than an even

> In St. Louis "Willie Green," the Jesse James of the profession, is the most capable man for refereeing a contest of any kind. Maxwell More is the best referee of amateur boxing in the country, and Prof. Mike Donovan would make a good all-around refwree if he would accept offers made him.

Breezy Gusts from the Ball Field.



GU can make up your mind that there will be a great crowd at the ball park this afternoon, the weather being favorable. There never has been more interest manifested in the game than is observable on all

hands today. This augurs great things for the championship season. The entire team is now here with the exception of Darby and Hulin, in retaining whom the management is going to experience considerable trouble, az Kansas City and Minneapolis claim them in the eleventh hour. However, Omaha's chances are good for securing Darby, anyway. The men signed will be divided into two teams this afternoon, the veterans opposed to the youngsters, and it will be a fine opget a line on the playing strength of the outfit.

The management has wisely concluded to again have a "ladies' day" this season, and Thursdays have been designated as the days on which the fair ones will be admitted free In many cities this year ladies will be admitted free throughout the season, but for good and obvious reasons the local manage-ment will be unable to grant such extensive oncessions. They very properly think that one day each week is enough, and that will be their program through the season. Of to the pleasure of a game of ball and they vill be especially catered to at the Charles street grounds, everything being done for their convenience and pleasure that the management can do,

The new uniforms arrived Friday. They come from Spaulding's, in Chicago, and are as neat and natty as can be. White caps, shirts and trausers, with red belts, stockings no prettier or more picturesque dress could be selected.

Messrs. Rowe and McVittie are preparing for an extra demonstration in henor of the opening of the championship season, which takes place Thursday, May 2, with Quincy. A street parade by the two teams in uniform and county and city officials and prominent citizens, in carriages, all headed by the barracks band, will be the signal feature. At the grounds speeches will be expected from Hon. John M. Thurston, Mayor Bemis, Governor Holcomb, and others, the whole to be interspersed with choice selections by the Baltimores wants to give him a trial. band. Promptly at 3:15, Montana Ward will eall play, and the race of 1895 begin.

ow on until the season opens, and there will be plenty of chances offered for seeing the boys in the limbering up process. On off days they will report regularly, morning second; George Wood, short; Banner Keene sweet and grateful fragrance of thawing soil the urine of this animal is the source of its and starting vegetation crowds the nostrils, and starting vegetation crowds the nostrils, and from every side rings the pean of returning spring, the swash of the wind-pushed waters to the lilt of melody from meadow of every other species. waters to the lift of melody from meadow lark and bebolink. Nature is fast recoverling from the tousling and mussy condition given her by the rougher play of wintry of pintails arase with their plaintive piping than a "peep-in" this year. His team is block as a factor of pintails arase with their plaintive piping than a "peep-in" this year. His team is the factor of pintails arase with their plaintive piping than a "peep-in" this year. His team is the factor of pintails arase with their plaintive piping than a "peep-in" this year. His team is the factor of pintails arase with their plaintive piping than a "peep-in" this year. His team is the factor of pintails arase with their plaintive piping than a "peep-in" this year. His team is the factor of pintails arase with their plaintive piping than a "peep-in" this year. His team is the factor of pintails arase with their plaintive piping than a "peep-in" this year. His team is the factor of pintails arase with their plaintive piping than a "peep-in" this year. His team is the factor of pintails arase with their plaintive piping than a "peep-in" the year than a "peep-in" the year than the plaintive piping than a "peep-in" the year than the plaintive piping than a "peep-in" the year than the plaintive piping than a "peep-in" the year than unquestionably very strong. These games will very likely constitute all of the eyes; the yellow grass is greening at the foots, and along lake shore and rippling rill froudous sprays are peeping forth, the whole catching a golden gleam from the lustre of unclouded sun. The tall, naked stalks of flags in the lower central portion of the leeseason professional exhibition games that will reacting a golden gleam from the lustre of unclouded sun. The tall, naked stalks of fice and cane are yet arrayed in graceful tracery, yet bending before the new life of canvasback—"

Inwyer, enthusiastically, pointing out to the life swing around the circle themselves, flags in the lower central portion of the ice-bound lake, "from which I killed my first down on Salt creek for return games. They canvasback—"

will be absent until the 1st of May, getting back home just in time to throttle th boys from Illinois on the inaugural day.

> The boys have all shown up fairly well in practice. Old Hutch, the Grasshopper, Shaf and Whalen displaying especial eleverness. Captain Walsh has knocked off fifteen pounds of his winter surplusage and is playing position with all his old time ginger. Single is a little fellow, but like the drummer's best girl, oh, my! He runs like a deer and fields and throws admirably. But it is hardly fair to presume to comment. fair to presume to comment on the individual strength of the team at this time. Wait!

> A sweathox has been put in at the club house on the grounds much to the satisfac-tion of all the players. After their daily ex-ercise now, they all indulge in it, then recreise how, they all indulge in it, then receive a vigorous rubdown, which obviates the
> chances of catching cald 100 per cent. Other
> improvements are being made in and about
> the club house and in time it will be one
> of the model institutions of its kind. It is
> hoped that Managers Rowe and McVittle, themselves, will not overlook its tempting bathing facilities
> at least once or twice during the second. at least once or twice during the season. It also offers a fine opportunity for Score Card Ike Miner to take his annual washup. He can sneak in some Sunday night after the

> throng should swarm through the gates. Manager McVittle says he expects 5,000 people and as the Missourian's contract calls for half the gross receipts Harry should go back home with a nice little wad of stuff in his invide nocket.

his inside pocket. There is more than ordinary interest There is more than ordinary interest shown in the new players who have been engaged to uphoid Omaha's fame this season, but it will only require a few genuine contests on the home grounds to determine whether they are strong and fast enough to travel in the company of the association. The final makeup of the team is a problem.

There are a lot of old-time crackers in Little present marquis of Queensberry rules, for professional contests, are inadequate and different referees put different interpretations upon them.

In New York Johnny Eckhardt easily leads greatest weakness will be on the rubber he list of competent referees, which is, how-ver, very limited. Frank Stevenson, Jimmy 'arroll and Charley White nake a referees, game is called. I think the team that beats the old leagues gang out will be, anyway, one, two, three,

In a little over three weeks the eight teams will be started off on what promises to be the greatest championship face in all the minor leagues, The pace from the start will be a merry one, and Omaha will make a mad effort to set it. There are no selling platers in the field, and it will be a lively scamper form the first clang of the

The Omahogs should be particularly strong in base running this season. In Shaffer, Slagle and Miles the team has added a trio "good things" with Ulrich, Walsh and Whalen, every on of whom can circle the bags without referring o a diagram, make the crowd one that likely to give opposing catchers a whol lot of worry.

Grasshopper Ulrich and Cholly Knicker booker Shaffer floated in from Philadelphi Phursday evening togged out like a brace on-top song and dance men, Shaf in love-colored top coat and nobby tweed suit, and the Grasshopper in an upper Chestnut treet dolman of the very latest shade and cut locking fine and feeling finer and have evidently not been exposed to the rigors of the past winter, with its attendant menu They will make a pair of dds on favorites.

Jimmle Canavan, the old Omaha graduate has played his last game with the Cincinnati team. From now on Jimmie will chine as a member of Manager Watkins' Indianapoli aggregation. Jimmie arrived here night be fore last from his home in Massachusetts says Harry Weldon of the Cincinnati In-quirer. He was accompanied by his wife. Manager Watkins had a short talk with him and persuaded him that it was better to go to Indianapolis, where he would get to play regularly, than to stay with the Reds, where he would be utility man. Canavan thought so, too, and asked for his release. It was granted, and he will join the Hoosiers No player that ever wore the red and white of the Cincinnati club was ever more popular than Canavan. He has played in this city off and on for the past five years. He will leave a host of friends behind hir who will wish him well in his new place It is safe to say that Canavan will be right up on the he is of the top-notch second base man in the Western league. The second base man that beats Jimmie will carry off the Manager Watkins made a ten-strike in securing him.

Charlie Shaffer will be Omaha's star cacher this season. He is a bird, as all the local cranks can well testify. Ulrich says Charlie has a volcano of seething sarcasm, vituperation and mulligalawiny nailed up his manly chest, but that it will belon forth in true eruptive style the moment the drur

The accompanying cut was made from an instantaneous photo made of old Hutch when he first went to bat Friday afternoon is lifelike and reflects much credit on the



The Hayden Bros. are represented by strong team made up exclusively of their employes, and they challenge any team in the city to meet them for a sories of games. Foday they play the Johnson Jays and next Sunday a team from Fort Omaha. The per-sonnel of the team: Luce, first; O'Connor second; Fyfe, third; McCormack, short; Thei son, pitch; Swanson, catch; Sonneborn, right Johnson, left, and Foster, middle. Swanson the catcher, is a crackeriack and Hanlon of

The Wilcox & Draper shoe house will be and this year by th The team will be kept on the hustle from strongest team of colored players ever organized in the west, as will be seen by the following list: Joe Miller, pitch; Vasco Grasecond; George Wood, short; Banner Keene third; William Halle, left; Danger Tolbert middle; Walter Parvis, right, and George Taylor, substitute

On the Lake and in the Field.

If there is any one who is getting more ducks than J. C. Green and George Morris and he kept it in a barrel for a couple of just at present around Omaha they are all weeks and fed it to try and make amends right. They got eleven yesterday and in the for the injury he had done it. Then he gave three or four days they have been out have barged about forty. They manage to skip out in the morning and come back at night generally with about a dozen or so. Mr Green is 64 years old, but can show lots of the young bloods how to wade and put out lective, handle a boat or anything pertaining to hunting. He is also a good shot.

Charlie Biendorf and Fred Fuller made fine bag of geese and ducks up the river a few days ago-forty in all-twenty-seven ducks and thirteen geese.

Judge Chapman, Clerk of the Courts Deering and Byron Clarke of Plattsmouth, and Dr. J. B. Hungate of Wahoo, left for the ducking grounds north of Irwin Thursday afternoon, to be gone several weeks,

of The Bes put in a morning at Cut-Off re ently, bagging four birds, a brace of mallards and a brace of redheads.

With the Trotters and Pacers. Omaha and Council Bluffs are to witness several first-class racing sessions this year, that at the state fair undoubtedly being the most important. The Council Bluffs horse men are making preparations for a big runing meeting at Union park in June and also a trotting and pacing session later in th

The following dates, which have been claimed by western cities, will be found worth filing by local horsemen; Renville, Minn., June 12-14 Independence, Ia., June 17-22. Oshkosh, Wis., June 25-28. Red Oak, June 25-29. Janesville, Wis., June 27-30. Lemars, Ia., July 1-5. Grand Rapids, Mich., July 1-5. Sparts, Wis., July 2-4. Terra Haute, Ind., July 2-4. Minnepolis, July 1-6. Glendive, Mont., July 4-6. La Crosse, Wis., July 9-13, Janesville, Wis., July 16-20, Freeport, Ill., July 22-27, Joliet, Ill., July 23- August 1, Waukesha, Wis., August 6-9. Waukesha, Wis., August 18-23.
Ottumwa, Ia., August 18-23.
Independence, Ia., August 19-24.
Rochester, Minn., August 26-31,
Galesburg, August 26-31.
La Crosse, Wis., September 2-7.
Hamilne, Minn., Sept. 9-14.
St. Joseph, Mo., September 9-14.
Green Bay, Wis., September 3-6.
Des Moines, September 3-6. Des Moines, September 3-7. Oshkosh, Wis., September 9-13, Portage, Wis., September 10-13. Sandwich, Ill., Sertember 10-13. Preston, Minn., Fillmore county fair, September 17-20.

The Capital City Driving club of Des Moines has formulated a new program which should attract the attention of all western should attract the attention of all westers stables. The following guaranteed purses but it will only require tests on the home grounds to determine the tests on the home grounds to determine whether they are strong and fast enough to travel in the company of the association. The final makeup of the team is a problem that Captain Walsh has not yet solved, and that Captain Walsh has not yet solved, and the test of the solved and the solve the solved the s

to was inflammation of the bowels. As a the firm of Spang Chalfant & Co., which was 2-year-old Ralph Wilkes was purchased by Colonel Thayer for \$35,000 and his estimated value before he died was \$150,000. He stood at the head of the great Wilkes family, being the fastest of them all. Raiph was a chestnut and was foaled in 1889, being 6 years old. He was by Red Wilkes, the greater son of George Wilkes. His dam was Mary Mays, by Mambrino Patchen, the greater set sign of head more described. est sire of brood mares. He made a wonder-ful record last year. He won the Charter Oak stakes at Hartford August 29., of \$5,000, over a field of eleven starters, making the last mile in 2:10%, the fastest mile ever trotted for the Charter Oak stakes. His defeat last year in the Transylvania stakes was due more to the incompetency of the starting judge than the horse, as he was scoring for an horse and twenty minutes. an hour and twenty minutes.

Strathmore, one of the few remaining sons of Hambletonian 10, died last week. He was foaled in 1866 and leaves a grand list of performing sons and daughters to keep fresh his memory.

Beb Kneebs was at the Merchant's hotel a caple of days this week.

At Kansas City, Mo., last week Budd Dobb said he intended to drive the horses of his stable in all their races this year.

Shadeland Onward 2:1814, Egbertine 2:1614 and Eventime 2:29% have arrived at their new home at Wabash, Ind. The Omaha Driving Park association mus

get to work on their track at once and keep at it until finished if they expect to get it in snything like respectable condition for the state fair races. It is a proverb that a good track will bring good horses. W. A. Paxton, in a few days, will transport his string of horses to Galesburg, Ill., fo preparation. Billy will undoubtedly have on

of the very best stables to be found in the whole country this season. They will make the entire big circuit, clear down to Nash-Ab Fullager will do Mr. Paxton's Clinton Briggs has returned from Red Oak. la., where he went to look after that grans fellow Alamito, who is now in the hands of Morris Jones and receiving his regular jog vork daily. Monree Salisbury will assum-tharge of Mr. Briggs' great horse as soon

and will take him through the grand circuit. If Alamito stays right Salisbury will mark him down to 2:07 or better. The Driving park people would score a tentrike by employing George Swigart or some ther good man to take immediate charge of their affairs on the grounds. There is no me to be lost. Every hour between nd September is very precious and should b

charge of Mr. Briggs' great horse as soon as he comes east with his California string,

Nat Brown, one of the leading local turf men, has shipped Ignus Fatuus, 2:20%, and Mary, 2:20%, out to Denver to Dick Tilden.

mproved.

Andy McDowell has renewed his contract with Salisbury.

As Robert J. has been kept in race form during his stay in California, and is now 7 years old, it can scarcely be expected that the little gelding will be able to carry everything before him as he did last season. Champions do not last nowadays as they did when Flora Temple and Goldsmith Maid were on the turf, and it is even predicted that Alix will meet her match this year, says the New York Times.

Ed Geers, J. A. Dustin, John Dickerson and Orrin Hickok have engaged stalls at the Terre Haute, Ind., track. Dustin is expected east with Directum on April 1, while erson and Geers will ship together and are not expected before May 1.

AN UNLUCKY POSSUM.

The Sad Story of a Possum Twice Caught in a Skink Teap.

A new track has appeared upon the snow in my neighborhood here on the Hudson within the past few years. It is a strange track, and suggests some small deformed human hand. If the dwarfs or persons we read of in childhood were to walk abroad in winter they might leave such an imprint behind them as this.

This track, which we seldom see later than ecember, is made by the possum. This animal is evidently multiplying in the land and is extending its range northward. Ten years ago they were rarely found here, and now they are very common. I hear that they are very abundant and troublesome on parts of Long Island. The hind foot of the possum has a scrt of thumb that opposes the other toes, and it is the imprint of this member that looks so strange. The under side of the foot is as naked as the human hand, and this adds to the novel look of the track in the snow

Late in the fall my hired man set a trap n a hole in hopes of catching a skunk, bu instead he caught a possum by one of its fore feet. The poor thing was badly crippled it its freedom, though the injured foo!

Soon after he sat his trap in the same hole and to his annoyance caught the possum again, this time by one of the hind feet. He brought the quiet, uncomplaining creature to me by its prehensile tail, and asked me what should be done with or for it. I con cluded to make a hospital for it in ner of my study. I made a nest for it behind a pile of magazines and fed and nursed it for several weeks. It never made a sound or showed the least uneasiness or sign suffering that I was aware of in all that time. By day it slept curled up in its nest If disturbed, it did not "play possum," that is, did not felgn sleep or death, but opened its mouth and grinned up at you in a sor of comical idiotic way. At night it hobble about the study and ate the meat and cake Associated Press Agent Garnett Porter and I had placed for it. Sometimes by day would come out of the corner and eat for under the lounge, eating very much afte the manner of a pig, though not so greedily. Indeed all its motions were very slow, lik

those of the skunk.

The skin of the possum is said to be fetid so that a dog will not touch them. A dog is always suspicious of an animal that shows no fear and makes no attempt to get out of its way. This fetidness of the possum is not apparent to my sense.

After a while my patient began to be troublesome by climbing upon the book shelves and inspecting the books, so I concluded to discharge him from the hospital. One night I carried him to the open door by his tail, put him down upon the door by his tail, put him down upon the door sill, and told him to go forth. He hesitated, looked back into the warm room, then out into the winter night, then thought of his maimed feet, and of traps in holes where unsuspecting possums live, and could not reach a decision. "Come," I said, "I have done all I can for you; go forth and shift for yourself." Slowly, like a very old man, he climbed down out of the door, and dis-appeared in the darkness. I have no doubt he regained his freedom with a sigh. It is highly probable that if a trap is set in his way again that he will put his foot in it as innocently as before.

day in March one of my neighbors brought to me a handful of young possums, very young, sixteen of them, like newly-born mice. The mother had been picked up dead on the railroad, killed, as so often happens to coons, foxes, muskrats, and woodchucks by the night express. The young were her pouch, each clinging to its teat, dead. The pouch is the state of th young are carried and nursed by the mother in this curious pocket until they are for or five weeks old, or the size of large mic After this she frequently carries them about clinging to various parts of her body, some with their tails wrapped around hers.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

Lancaster, Mo., has a woman undertaker. We use 7,000,000 miles of thread annually Uncle Sam has 200,000 stationary electric Chicago's annual meat exports exceed \$100,

New York makes \$80,000,000 worth of clothing a year. will annually yield enough of this substance to produce 1,100,000 feet of gas.

The yearly loss in wages in Great Britain through ill health is \$55,000,000. Two thousand patents have been taken out in this country on the manufacture of paper

Light and power are now transmitted from San Antonio to San Bernardino, Cal., a distance of thirty miles. Pittsburg is perturbed over the fact that

the first to use natural gas for fuel, has gone back to the use of coat. The largest nail-making machine in the United States is at Everett, Wash. It was

made by a firm at Greenpoint, L. I., and weighs twelve and one-half tons. The electricians at Gratz, Austria, claim to have invented an arrangement by which a newspapers can be printed by telegraph in any

number of places at the same time. In France, a very good gas is made from the fatty material contained in the soapsuds, after washing woolens and yarns. The wash water of a woolen mill with 20,000 spindles Mexico in 1882 had twenty-neven cotton factories, using 55,600 bales of cotton. There are now, according to a report just made, 126

employing 21,964 persons.

Elbert, the center of the French woolen manufacture, is so well off that it has abelished nearly all its town taxes, and now petitions the government for leave to do away with the certot, the duty on provisions entering town tering town.

textile factories with a capital of \$17,392,786,

A new imitation of gold is made of 94 parts of copper and six of antimony, with a little magnesium and carbonate of lime added while it is melted. It is said that it preserves its color, is an almost exact imitation of gold and that it coats only a shilling a sound to make it.

The gold beating industry is threatened The gold beating industry is threatened with extinction by the Swan process of preparing gold leaf. This consists of depositing a thin coating of gold upon a copper base and then dissolving the base by submission to perchloride of iron. It is stated that the leaf may by this means be made of the thickness of 1-4,000,000th part of an inch.

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