

STEEL-CHASING IN HIGH FLYING

Devotees of the Sport Intend to Place It on Same High Level as Flat Racing



Dandolo, owned by M. Eugene Fischhoff, winner of Grand Prize at Nice. Value one hundred thousand francs.

Manifesto, winner of the English Grand National, 1897 and 1899, died recently.



Nice race-course - Stand for officials

By Joseph J. Burke.

So palpable is it that the gentlemen in control of steeplechasing in America are determined to uplift and place that exhilarating and popular sport upon the same high level that flat racing occupies in this country that observers fond of cross country sport experience a sense of great satisfaction. It needs but a glance at the conditions of steeplechase stakes which have closed and are yet to close to recognize the fact that concerted efforts have been made by the executive officers of the respective racing associations, and that by the most liberal offers yet made strong inducements have thus been laid before the somewhat limited number of gentlemen who are paying bills to maintain stables, the chief object of which is to entice admirers of the weight carrying thoroughbred.

Supplementary to these efforts have been the plans of the United Hunts Racing Association, a body of gentlemen whose aim is the cultivation of steeplechasing and racing on the flat by hunters. Sooner or later the latter named association, comprising as it does many of the most socially prominent persons in this country, will have a home of its own, sufficiently near to the metropolis to render it readily accessible to those who like the sport and yet so situated as to place it beyond all possible fear of being crowded out by the advance of population, as was the fate of Morris Park.

That the ranks of horse owners who will maintain jacks this season are gradually growing in number is shown by the fact that a variety of cross country stakes which are to be raced, commencing at the forthcoming meeting, Grand High, is a gentleman who is closely identified with the interests of Mr. Thomas Ryan, is one of the accessories who has in or a strong fancy for the sport, and who has made nominations in stakes to be run later. He has named some Irish bred thoroughbreds, reared in the stable of the finest country horses in the world. Mr. Browne has also a good sized stable of flat racers in charge of Claxton, a young Englishman, who has had experience on the Irish and English turf. Mr. Browne's horses are being started at Glenshead Park, and they are all in good health.

Courland H. Smith, very well known in the past as a highly successful horse show exhibitor, has also formed a stable destined for cross country sport. He is backed by

the wealthy Mr. Dunlap, of Virginia, a State famous for its great horses. Through efforts of Henry T. Oxnard in particular Virginia is destined to become much more famous in the future, for he has established an important stud not far from Warrenton, a town rich in sporting recollections, where exists a colony of hunting men hardly approached by any community in this country.

E. R. Thomas et vs Oxnard.

Edward R. Thomas, owner of Hennis and Stallard, is also somewhat interested in this year in cross country sport, he having named the six-year-old gelding Oxnard in several of the valuable stakes. Last fall this once good horse won several races on the turf course at the Coney Island track, and though he is a cripple, hopes are entertained that he will stand training. How slight a dependence, however, can be placed in a cripple to maintain his form over the jumps need not be emphasized here.

H. W. Bull and E. C. La Montagne are also nominators in stakes for jumpers. W. Gould Brukaw is extending his operations, and other new names noted are J. O. Keene, M. J. Cavanagh, W. C. Hayes and others who will have some valuable stakes on the turf course at the Coney Island track, and though he is a cripple, hopes are entertained that he will stand training. How slight a dependence, however, can be placed in a cripple to maintain his form over the jumps need not be emphasized here.

Dandolo and Moulin Neuf together at last jump in the great steeple-chase at Nice

and well known performers, who are now on Long Island. Charles Piser also is a nominator, as well as R. L. Stevens, G. Stewart, M. J. Cavanagh, W. C. Hayes and others who year by year race their horses for public entertainment.

Old Guard Steeplechase Owners

Finally came the half dozen stalwart and loyal supporters of the cross country game whose names and colors are household words to the racing public. The extremely well managed stable owned and practically trained by Mr. Thomas Fitzcock, Jr., is as strong as ever. The Whitney Memorial victor, Good and Plenty, heads the list. No more popular horse ever ran. His gameness is proverbial, and it is sincerely to be hoped that he will regain his best form. Hyles, winner of the Champion Stake last fall, is also to the

front, as are also Black Hussar, Phinon and some new aspirants in Orthodox, Paul Jones, The Claimant, Garrett and Oros. The stable is wintering, as usual, at Alkoon, Sandhurst, Kernal and Oros Strauss, and some new ones in Prince of Pilsen, the Lexington Leader, Rose of Dawn and Ferguson.

J. W. Colt, always ready to pay any reasonable price for an eligible horse for cross country work, has an unusually good lot this year, including the winners Arian, Sandhurst, Kernal and Oros Strauss, and some new ones in Prince of Pilsen, the Lexington Leader, Rose of Dawn and Ferguson.

"Mr. Cotton" has wintering in Virginia, less than thirty cross-country candidates, in charge of G. R. Tompkins, the horseman who did so remarkably well while training for J. W. Colt when Louisville was the "top of the heap." "Mr. Cotton" and his partner, Mr. Wald, have also an interest in this year's Liverpool-Grand National, for they own the steeplechase ridden by Owens, an American jockey, who spends the winter usually riding in France. It will be recalled that "Mr. Cotton" made a bid with vain effort to win the first of the Grand National with the New Zealand horse Seahorse II, purchased at a price said to be \$15,000, but who fell when a mile from the end of the race. The horse was then brought to this country and took part in two races at Saratoga. In the first of these he finished with a strong second, but was of course disqualified. In his next effort Seahorse II fell down, and this ended the career of the handsome, most symmetrical horse ever seen.

More than half the stable which will race in "Mr. Cotton's" interest this year are young horses yet in the hands of Mr. Tompkins, whose successes with jumpers go away back to the days of the big Prince Charles. This celebrated bid, according to a well known historical manuscript, was originally fifteen feet six inches wide, twelve feet long and had a pull-out or truck again as large, and accommodated eight or nine people, the under bed holding thirty that number. It was made by James Foster, brooke, a carpenter, who spent thirty years in its construction. In 1892 it was sold for a hundred guineas to the party for the Bed of the House, Roxbury, where it was exhibited at a charge of two pence a head. It was described as a two piece, ornately carved affair of Tudor style and built of solid oak.

The importance in which the bed was held among the household furniture is evidenced by the difficulties which our forefathers overcame in order to bring this beloved possession from England to the New World. At that time a carved oak bedstead of rare merit for in the fall of 1694 he captivated all who saw him. It can be told here for the first time that Mr. Widener made a great effort to be

Determining the Style of Beds.

No doubt many have smiled at the mention in his famous will of "Shakespeare's bedstead" which he left to his wife. But as he was at the time of his death a man of wealth this bed was undoubtedly a handsome one and would make about a goodly fortune. The bed in those days was a precious possession and the greatest luxury was only possible to the people of the highest rank. Each home of any pretension of the lower classes contained an enormous bedstead upon which the man, his wife, his children, his guests, and even the stranger who asked for hospitality could sleep. This habit of sharing a bed with the guests was by no means confined to the lower classes. Royally sanctioned custom, and the guests welcomed at court or chateau could receive no greater honor than to occupy the same bed with the lord and his lady.

Nearly every castle in feudal times had three kinds of beds. They were called "triple beds," for they were really three in one. First, the bed of state, used by the lord, his lady and immediate family; second, a lower affair upon which their attendants slept; third, still a lower bed, drawing from underneath the second, just like our more recent trundle bed, used exclusively for the servants. It seems odd to picture such a bed in these days, and yet there are a few examples still in existence both in France and England.

These beds seem very primitive affairs. But they are removed hundreds of years from the beds which were first used by the present time. The first were stuffed with cushions, played in a heap on the floor. Later a raised platform was built on three sides of a room and the cushions were placed upon this. The next step was to make these elevations movable, an innovation due to the Egyptians, who fastened them from wood, ivory, bronze, copper, gold and silver. The origin of bedsteads

needed to enable the occupant to get in or out.

The house of a gentleman in the Middle Ages held not more than two or three beds at the most. The Earl of Cumberland's Skipton Castle, an immense building with forty rooms, built in 1822, had but eight beds, and not one of the bedchambers contained chairs, glasses or carpets.

The rosewood bed of Queen Elizabeth was an enormous affair, extremely high, with a flight of steps leading up to it. It was about the size of a New York half bed room. On it was an enormous feather bed with huge pillows, so that the Virgin Queen slept almost in a sitting posture. It was hung about with beautiful curtains embellished with heraldic devices.

Shakespeare, in the "Twelfth Night," refers to the celebrated "Bed of Ware" as "As many lies as shall lie in the sheet of paper, altho' the sheet were big enough for the Bed of the Wars."

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Curious Occupations of Women.

There has been a great deal written about the curious occupations which women take up in order that they may make a little pin money. One takes pet dogs for a run in the park; another does the catering for busy households; a third mends rare lace; still another chaperones young girls at places of amusement. But among the women of the most wide whose needs for extra money are quite as great there are no qualifications for these occupations. And yet they have resources which bring them in considerable money.

Perhaps the most popular of these is the "dry picking" of poultry. According to rabbinical rules a fowl that is picked after having been immersed in scalding water is as impossible to an orthodox Hebrew as one that has not been slaughtered.

The operations of the licensed butcher, or schochet, are limited by the rigid enforcement of the sanitary laws, so he no longer does the work of the abattoir nor does he go about from shop to shop with his keen bright knives of assorted sizes, wrapped in woollen cloths to preserve their edges, killing a chicken here or a turkey there, according to the customer's demands.

Thursday afternoon used to be a busy time for the "dry picker," were equally in evidence among the busy people concerned with preparations for the Sabbath, which begins on Friday evening; but now he is represented wholly by the huge stacks of poultry which await the nimble fingers of the pickers in the east side shops.

The women who follow this vocation of "dry pickers" are of all ages, from the withered old crone, who knows how to do nothing else, to the young wife, who wants to make some money with which she may

beautifully her home. The rate paid is not large, but though it is only three cents for a chicken, five for a duck, seven for a turkey, and from ten to twelve for a goose (there are not a few of the women who are so deft at the work that they can make from \$1 to \$2.50 in an afternoon).

The steepest birds to pick are the chickens and turkeys, for whose handfuls of feathers can be removed at one grasp; but in case of ducks and geese much greater care is required, and the task is especially difficult when the birds are very fat, and are permitted to grow cold after slaughtering. Then only the most skillful handling will prevent the tearing or breaking of the skin. The picker who can be relied upon to turn out a fowl with a smooth, unbraded surface is the one whose services are in greatest demand and who often receives double rates.

Another occupation which grows out of the feather picking is that of stripping the feathers from the fowls, and this is done in a central quill in order to make a kind of straw. The choicest feathers of the turkey, duck, and goose, are the only ones used for the purpose. There is a prejudice among the people of the ghetto against those from the chicken, so they are rarely used. The down is made up into pillows and bolsters, while the artificial down goes into the great feather beds which are so generally used among the people of that race.

Another strange vocation is that of goose stuffer, or the manufacturer of abnormally fat fowls, with abnormally enlarged livers. The goose is confined in a coop so small that it literally has not room to move about. It is then fed, twice or three times