

# BREEDER AND SPORTSMAN

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## SPURTS, SKIPS AND SKIVES.

[BY THE GREEN 'UN.]

By the way the \$1000 purses are being announced in California, some of the trainers who went East will be wishing they had stayed at home. First the Breeders hung up \$17,500 in purses, then Los Angeles announced four early closing events of \$1000 each with \$20,000 worth to close later on, and now the Golden Gate Fair Association is to the front with \$17,700, nearly all of which is in purses of \$1000 or over. The State Fair will certainly do as well and so it is clear that there will be at the very least calculation six weeks of racing by associations that will give \$1000 purses. But this is not all the harness racing there is to be in California this year. Red Bluff Chico and Willows will certainly give meetings in the northern part of the State, Stockton, San Jose, Salinae and Fresno, of the central part of California, will hold meetings and hang up liberal purses, while Santa Ana, Hueneme and other points in the south will supplement Los Angeles with good fairs and excellent racing programs. California is to be decidedly in it this year and the owner of good trotters and pacers can make money by campaigning them in the State.

Superintendent Frank W. Covey reached home early this week from Cleveland. He was more than pleased with the result of the sale of Palo Alto youngsters, and said his only mistake was in taking too many two year olds. Made horses is what the Easterners want and they are ready to pay for good ones. A good green horse that is sound and all right will bring from \$2000 to \$3000 if he can show a mile in 2:17 or thereabout and is a good road horse. Mr. Covey was particularly well pleased with the way the young Altivos sold. One three-year old and two two-year-olds by this full brother to Palo Alto 2:03¾, brought \$5470, an average of \$1823.33¾. This large average for the get of an untried stallion is certainly a great recognition of the blood of Electioneer and Dame Winnie, a strong argument in favor of the methods of breeding used by the late Hon. Leland Stanford and still carried on at Palo Alto. Norace, the green gelding by Norris belonging to James Maguire, was sold for \$2000. He showed a half in 1:06 before leaving home but got completely off just before the sale and could not show well. There were several of the California horses that were not well when offered and but for this would have brought more money.

Azote 2:04¾, the champion trotting gelding brought \$2900 at the Fasig-Tipton sale and went to the nod of the owner of Star Pointer 1:59¼. He will be used as a road horse and no better one than the old champion will be driven in Cleveland. A timid woman would hold the reins over him in confidence after driving him a time or two. He doesn't pull a pound and will jog at a dog trot or speed a 2:10 clip as he is asked and make no fuss at either way of going. Had it been certain to the Eastern buyers that his legs would stand fast road work ten thousand dollars would not have stopped the bidding. They say Pa Hamlin expects to knock the old fellow's record out this year with The Abbot. He may, but the chances are he will not. I hope he succeeds, not that I would like to see the crown taken from any old hero, but because I wish to see the white plume of championship set a little higher each year. The 1:59¼ of Star Pointer has not prevented breeders

trying to raise a pacer that can equal or beat it, and the two-minute trotter, when he comes, will not cause breeders of the trotter to stop and say: "This is the highest point of the trotter's greatness." The two-minute trotter will simply cause the 1:58 horse to be sought after.

Advertiser goes back to Stony Ford from whence twenty years ago his great sire Electioneer came to make a name and fame for Palo Alto Stock Farm. Gen. B. F. Tracy was his purchaser and though he secured the sire of the champion yearling for the comparatively small sum of \$2600, the Palo Alto folks are more pleased to see the horse go into such hand as that price than to sell for more money to some one who would give him no opportunity. Gen. Tracy will certainly breed him to some choice mares, and when sufficient time has elapsed for this progeny to enter the training stables, Advertiser's name is sure to be often seen in the list of winning sires.

One great disappointment of the sale was the sale of Eclectic full brother to Arion 2:07¾, for the insignificant sum of \$125. The cause of this was the fact that Eclectic has been heralded far and near as a failure. Few horses have had more opportunities to be a failure than he. Buried on a farm where training and breeding had been stopped for years, given no chance to be mated with suitable mares, his offspring neither worked nor sold to parties who would train them, is it any wonder that his get have failed to get records. They could not, even though they were all possessed of two minute speed. We understand that Eclectic has passed into good hands and he will be given a chance. If, four years from now, his colts do not show something, I will then admit that Eclectic is a failure. Until then I will not condemn him on his past record.

One of the best horses on the Cleveland track is Whips Jr., son of Whips and Marion 2:26¾, by Piedmont. This chestnut colt is now four years old and could not be purchased for a sum well up in the thousands. He is one of the fastest young horses ever driven on the Cleveland track and is a perfect gaited trotter. Whips Jr. only brought a little over a hundred dollars at the Palo Alto sale last year, and he is living evidence that astute horsemen do not always know a good thing when they see it.

W. G. Durfee left Los Angeles last week for Colorado Springs, where a meeting is to be held prior to the Denver meeting. He has a good string of horses and if they keep in good shape he ought to be able to win his share of the money. While the son is trying his luck across the mountains this year, his father, C. A. Durfee, will be holding up the reputation of the family here in California. He is now working several trotters and pacers at the Meek track near Haywards. Besides several young McKinneys he has Harvey Mc 2:14¼, by that horse and the chances are that he will give this handsome black pacer a mark better than 2:10 this year. He has Galette 2:12¼, and though she has not yet been given any fast miles, Durfee has her going as straight and steady as a clock while trotting slow. If he can prevent her from hitching as she used to, look out for a faster record for this daughter of Judd Wilkes. Roan Wilkee, the fast son of Raymond, and Miss Jessie 2:14, by Gossip, will also be raced this year. The mare now has the surviving member of a pair of twins

by McKinney at foot, but she will be ready for the fall events and if she is as good as she was last year 2:10 will not stop her.

One of the most difficult things in the way of holding high class fairs is the effort often made to get along with a cheap Secretary. To properly attend to the correspondence and other business required in the proper conduct of an annual fair and race meeting requires more time than the average association seems willing to pay for. District boards seem slow to realize the fact that a real live secretary, who does his whole duty to an agricultural association, is worthy of his hire. No man can do it on a salary of less than \$600 per year even in a small district, and when the proper man is found \$1000 a year is little enough to pay him for his work. Any district association in California that has fair grounds and a race track in a town of 4000 population or over can afford to pay a good secretary a thousand dollars a year to look after its business. There is not a day but he will have letters to answer and by keeping in touch with the horse owners and breeders throughout the country he can increase the entry list to the races and the stock exhibits so that the extra entrance fees will more than pay his salary, and thereby make money for the association. I hope some of our district boards that are now organizing will make an effort in this line and put themselves in the way of making money by engaging a first class Secretary and paying sufficient salary to enable him to do his work properly.

The McKinney yearling sold at the Crabb sale at Napa Thursday brought but \$55, but he had a severe injury on his hock that was received while being shipped to the sale. While it is thought the injury will not be permanent it had the appearance of being serious and was enough to stop bidders. Chas. Newman of this city took a chance at the colt, however, and I hope he will get a record breaker out of him. The youngster is the only gray McKinney I ever heard of and is a splendid looking colt according to those who have looked him over. His dam Biddy Toole, by A. W. Richmond was a good one in her day and could "June" some on the roads as well as on the track. She has trotted miles below 2:30 more than once.

I heard the other day that Miss Logan 2:07½ had met with an accident and might not go East this year. I hope it is nothing serious as this mare ought to beat her mark this season. She was just getting to her speed when the season closed last year.

### Caiman Not in the Derby.

A correspondent calls attention to the fact that Hidalgo's prediction as to Caiman's chances in the English Derby are for naught as Caiman was not entered for that great event.

In the Fasig Sale Catalogue, preceding their consignment, Miller & Sibley state that they will discontinue breeding horses, and will hereafter maintain only a racing stable. Their stallions will be sold in the fall.

The three-year-old bay filly Narion, by Arion—Nancy Hanks is eligible to start in the New England \$10,000 Futurity, and is likely to do so if the reports of the breed she is showing are correct.

COL. JOHN G. TAYLOR says that J. B. D. will trot the fastest mile of any horse in the United States in 1899.