

## THE TROTTING CONVENTION.

## What Was Accomplished.—A Large Gathering of Enthusiastic Horsemen.

Pursuant to call, the following-named gentlemen who are interested in the welfare of the light horse industry assembled at the office of the BREEDER AND SPORTSMAN, 313 Bush street, on Tuesday evening, February 18th: Prof. E. P. Heald, F. J. Burke, L. U. Shippee, C. H. Corey, F. W. Loeher, S. Seymour, J. A. McKerron, Stephen Crane, P. J. Williams, M. McManus, P. Farrell, Clarence Hill, Jas. Berryman, J. B. Iverson, J. Perkins, J. Phippen, D. L. Hackett, Levi Adams, M. Sanders, L. E. Clawson, R. Haver, P. Brandoo, Ira Ramsdell, J. McDonald, A. H. Cohen, C. Dagan, C. D. Taylor, Dr. G. W. Stimson, T. J. Crowley, L. J. Smith, H. Hahn, Thos. Smith, H. W. Crabbs, H. Meek, Robt. Brown, J. Brown, F. T. Wickersham, J. M. Sullivan, C. Winslip, F. J. Brandon, Jas. Dustin, J. M. Nelson, D. Misner, W. V. Freeman, Lute Liodsey, Dr. Smith, Capt. B. E. Harris, Geo. Wiley, John F. Boyd, Lafayette Funck, W. G. Layng, F. M. Day, Chas. Dorfee, F. A. McAuley, J. H. Crow, all of California, and G. W. McDonald, of Oregon.

Prof. E. P. Heald, President of the P. C. T. H. B. Association, called the meeting to order and in a few well-chosen remarks stated the objects for which the meeting was called and the position the Breeders association held in the movement.

He advocated the appointment of a horseman as chairman of the convention, one in whom its interests would be well cared for.

Nominations being in order, L. Adams, of Woodland, offered the name of F. W. Covey to be chairman, and forthwith this nominee was unanimously elected.

Wm. G. Layng was elected secretary.

There being no regular order of business, Chairman Covey called upon those present to make suggestions regarding the work to be done, and in order to facilitate business called the roll of representatives from the various associations, and the following were found to be present: The P. C. T. H. B. A., Vallejo, Willows, Napa, Petaluma, Woodland, Stockton, San Jose, Salinas, Hollister, Fresno, Anaconda and Butte.

Most of these representatives stated that they had no credentials, but believed that if the horsemen assembled decided to formulate plans governing the conduct of race meetings, arrange conditions, dates for the closing of entries, etc., they would be pleased to submit the same to their respective associations and state what was done to promote the industry and give good meetings this year.

The question of the revival of the Occidental Trotting and Pacing Association or the formation of a new Governing Association on this Coast to take the place of the National and American Associations here, was presented, and much preliminary debate was indulged in regarding it, some of those present declaring that to properly conduct race meetings on this coast, a local organization is a necessity, as cases could thereby be disposed of more expeditiously and the business transacted with much greater facility under a government with all its machinery here than under one with headquarters thousands of miles away, especially as some step must be taken to relieve the horsemen from the burden of suspension for non-payment of entrance that now rests upon them. It was explained at the meeting by Messrs. Loeher and Heald that the well-known veteran horseman and turf writer, Jos. Cairn Simpson, was a delegate from the Pacific Coast Trotting Horse Breeders Association and other associations on this Coast to attend the National Convention held last week in New York City, and that it was one of the main objects of his trip East to secure an enlargement of the powers of the Pacific Coast District Board of Appeals and the Pacific Coast Vice-President of the National Association, so that all matters pertaining to race meetings coming before the National Association could be presented and disposed of here as expeditiously as under a local organization.

The question of suspensions and the predicament many horsemen are in, caused by their non-payment of entrance money, was then brought up and the following in relation to this was submitted by F. W. Kelley:

"The result of the credit system and early closing of entries adopted by a number of the associations for the last two years has been to bury many of the horsemen under a load of debt for entrance money beyond all hope of their being able to dig themselves out without help from the associations. The plan of small forfeits and long credits was first adopted by the Breeders' Association, and its object was to encourage owners in training their horses during the hard times that prevailed. It proved most popular on the start, and larger lists of entries were ever seen than those that the Breeders received for the races of 1894. The receipts were so large that, notwithstanding the suspensions of their two meetings of that year, amounted to over \$9,000, the cash receipts for entrance for these meetings came within \$2,843 of paying their purses, which amounted to \$39,413. The experience, however, of the last two years has shown that the average horseman is too sanguine early in the season, and chances of being able to win himself out.

As it now stands there are so many good horses that are suspended, and so many men engaged in the business of racing horses who owe for entrance, that some means should be taken that will afford the association's protection and will at the same time give the suspended parties an opportunity to get back into the business. The idea of wiping all suspensions off the books of the associations, which has been advanced, is neither feasible nor just, and would establish a bad precedent.

As it stands now, it is safe to assert that only a small percentage of the amounts due the associations for suspensions can be considered good, and if a plan can be devised that secures the prompt payment from parties who are able to pay and also encourage others, who would pay if they could, to train their horses this year and meet their obligations, it seems as though it should have the approval of the associations and be a solution of the difficulty. In view of the situation I beg to submit the following plan:

Let all the associations on this Pacific Coast that are members of either the National or American Trotting Associations agree to give delinquents one year's time in which to meet obligations for non-payment of entrance, commencing with the opening of the season this year, on the following terms:

That parties who are suspended, and horses that are suspended for non-payment of entrance be allowed to start in 1896 on payment of their entrance for 1896 under the conditions of the races in which they are entered.

That all suspensions are to stand as recorded and to be enforced as follows: Should an entry win against which there is a suspension that the amount of money won over and above the entrance in the race in which the winning is made shall be withheld and applied to the amount that stands against the suspended party or horse.

That the sum so collected shall be turned over to the National or American Association as required by the rules, and should the sum in any instance at the end of the season not equal the amount of

the particular suspension against the party or horse, it shall be distributed to the members to whom it belongs pro rata, and the party or horse remain suspended for the balance due.

I think that this plan would result in the collection of a great deal of money for the associations in 1896 that they would not otherwise get. It would tend to increase the list of entries, the number of horses to be trained, and be a benefit to all parties concerned.

Should the associations feel that they were able to do better by the delinquents than to restrain all the money won over and above the entrance in the race in which the winning is made, they could decide upon having 50 or 75 per cent. of the winnings held out to apply on suspensions. This would leave the horsemen the use of part of their winnings toward paying current expenses.

To carry out this plan it will be necessary for all of our racing associations to induce the National and American Associations to act in conjunction with them in this matter.

On motion, it was voted that the plan presented met with the approval of the convention and a committee, consisting of F. W. Kelley, F. J. Brandon and F. W. Loeher, was appointed to confer with all associations in this State upon them.

F. A. McAuley of Vallejo spoke of the importance of setting a date for the closing of entries.

Chairman Covey offered the following: Entries to all meetings close two weeks before the first day of each meeting.

L. U. Shippee moved that a committee of three be appointed to confer with the associations on this subject.

An amendment that five be appointed was offered and lost.

F. W. Loeher then stated that as there was such a large and enthusiastic gathering of horsemen he wished to state his views regarding the formation of an organization to be composed of trotting and pacing horse breeders, owners and trainers, and that they adopt a set of rules that would be accepted by all associations in this State, said rules to be uniform. He thought such an association would not be opposed by the directors of county associations, and it would greatly benefit everyone interested in the business.

C. H. Corey stated that it would be better to leave all such matters to the P. C. T. H. B. A. as the formation of two associations on this Coast would be an injury to the cause.

W. Adams of Woodland and L. U. Shippee also opposed Mr. Loeher's plan, and when the question, "should such an organization be formed?" was put before the convention it was lost.

On motion of F. J. Brandon a committee of ten was appointed by the chair to meet the following morning at ten o'clock and formulate a set of rules for entrance into all kinds of races, starters, judges, distance flags, classifications, terms of entrance, etc., and said rules to be presented for adoption at the convention which will be called at eight o'clock that evening. The following were selected to act on that committee: W. V. Freeman of Willows, F. J. Brandon of San Jose, F. J. Wickersham of Fresno, F. W. Loeher of Napa, P. J. Williams of Oakland, A. H. Cohen of Alameda, Robert S. Brown of Petaluma, Chas. A. Dorfee of Los Angeles, H. Meek of Lorenzo, and F. A. McAuley of Vallejo.

The convention adjourned until eight o'clock Wednesday evening.

## SECOND DAY—WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

Wednesday at 10 o'clock Mr. F. M. Covey called the committee on resolution to order, and, on motion, the following gentlemen who were present were added to it: Jas. Sullivan, C. H. Corey, Ed. Laferri, Clarence Hill, F. M. Kelley, J. Perkins, Ira Ramsdell, L. Adams and Thos. Smith.

A communication was received from M. S. Severance regarding the benefits to be derived from a thorough understanding of the present needs of the trotting horse industry.

A letter was also read from F. J. Brandon, who was called to San Jose. The committee adopted a set of suggestions which were to be placed before the convention to be finally acted upon in the evening.

## EVENING SESSION.

The attendance this evening was larger than on the opening night, and besides the horsemen who were then noted as present the following were also on hand to vote upon the questions which were to be presented: Messrs. Jesse D. Carr, Chas. M. Chase, G. Wempe, J. Sheldon, W. Robertson, Edwin F. Smith, Chas. M. Welby, F. Denio, J. Dinne and several others whose names we did not learn.

Chairman Covey called the meeting to order; the committee's report was then read, and on motion of T. J. Crowley the resolutions were voted upon *ad seriatim*. They were adopted unanimously, very few alterations being made:

1.—Entries to class races for all meetings to close two weeks before the first day of each meeting.

2.—Entrance fee to be five per cent and five per cent additional of the amount of the purse from money winners.

3.—Races for two and three-year-olds to be two in three; a colt not winning a heat in three goes to the stable but does not lose his position as far as the division of the money is concerned.

4.—That all races from the 2:40 to the 2:16 class inclusive be mile heats, and if a horse not winning a heat in four goes to the stable but does not lose his position as far as the division of the money is concerned.

5.—That all faster classes than 2:16 be mile heats, two in three; a horse not winning a heat in three goes to the stable but does not lose his position as far as the division of the money is concerned.

6.—That dashes of one, two, three miles and intermediate distances for trotters and pacers be encouraged by all associations.

7.—That all associations encourage breeders by giving stakes for two, three and four-year-olds, as colts and fillies, the main inducement to the promoters breeders to keep a stable in training, and the nomination fee for such races to be placed at a low figure for the first payment.

8.—That in the published conditions of entries, all associations require distinctive colors of saddle or of stable or owner to be given.

9.—That all associations secure the services of a first class starter. The necessity of this has been fully established, and we further recommend the employment of Wm. F. McNeil as such official.

10.—That all associations give drivers and their wives tickets of admission to the track and grandstand.

11.—That the N. T. A. rules are to govern the distances in all races.

12.—That the distance judge must be an officer of the association holding the meeting.

13.—It is recommended that district associations prepare and advertise the programmes for their race meetings at as early a date as possible, for by so doing owners will be encouraged to train their horses and be prepared to make entries when the purses close. Unless the associations come out and announce their intentions as early in the spring as possible, many of our best horses will be engaged in the Eastern races, as their owners will make engagements in the East before entries close on this Coast.

14.—As the National Trotting Association is going to extend the powers of the Pacific Coast Board of Appeals on this Coast, it is recommended that all associations join the National Association for mutual protection.

15.—That it is the sense of this meeting that the Pacific Coast Trotting Horse Breeders Association ascertain from all associations on this Coast whether they will give meetings this year, and if not, the P. C. T. H. B. A. will give meetings in their stead.

On motion of P. Williams it was ordered that all resolutions adopted by this convention be referred to the Directors of the Pacific Coast Trotting Horse Breeders Association, and that these officers draft a suitable preamble setting forth their objects and forward the same to the various associations on this Coast.

It was also ordered that a meeting of representatives of all district associations be called to arrange dates for the various meetings this season, and that the secretary affix this notice to the resolutions which he will forward to such associations.

The resolution on suspensions of drivers and horsemen for non-payment of entrance, which was referred to the committee consisting of Messrs. F. W. Kelley, F. J. Brandon and F. W. Loeher, was discussed, and Edwin F. Smith was added to that committee. It was further ordered that the said resolution be referred to the Pacific Coast Board of Appeals for a ruling before any action is taken in regard to sending the same to the associations.

A committee of three consisting of Prof. E. P. Heald, F. W. Kelley and D. L. Hackett, was appointed to draft a memorial to Governor Budd regarding his action in vetoing the appropriations for district fairs.

C. M. Chase, the newly appointed member of the Pacific Coast Board of Appeals, in a few well-chosen remarks referred to the promotion of Capt. Smith to the Vice-Presidency of the National Trotting Association, and also to the fact that in behalf of his own labors for the horse interests on this coast he pledged himself to continue in the good work, and would see justice accorded to all.

Prof. E. P. Heald, the other newly-appointed member, added that he would try to do what was right.

Chairman Covey indulged in a few laudatory remarks about the retiring of that staunch friend of the trotter, Jesse D. Carr, who was present to see that the work for the coming year was started right.

The utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed throughout the meeting, and the desire to see new life instilled into the trotting horse industry was strong and enthusiastic. There seemed to be a determination on the part of all who were present to return to their homes and at once begin the pleasurable work of booming the race meetings. As there will be no running races in San Francisco this summer, a large number of Eastern men intend to visit the various fairs, and it is expected that the races are conducted on the plans as formulated in the resolutions adopted, there is no doubt the results at the close of the season will be in every way flattering to the horsemen, associations and the public.

On motion of T. J. Crowley, the thanks of the convention were extended to Chairman F. W. Covey for the manner in which he presided over this the first and largest convention of trotting horsemen ever held in California.

The meeting then adjourned.

## Pathmore

Pathmore can be seen at Pleasanton, Cal. He is a handsome brown stallion and will be six years old of 2:09 1/2. He is perfectly sound and one of the greatest of the age. He raced only one season and had a span of twin fillies in his class this spring; they are standard, kind mount, four-year-old, marked bays with dark points, one of them broke a year, raised in Oregon. They have not had any other show evidences of speed. For further particulars apply to J. MILLER, agent, Oregon.

This comes back to us from England. "American trainers think they have given us a wrinkle with regard to horses running on a muddy course. At a recent Baltimore meeting a two-year-old won a race there in such a fashion as to make some people open their eyes. The track is largely clay, and the rain had made it so stiff and holding that few would start; yet the two-year-old romped through it. When he pulled up it was noticed that his feet were plastered with some white stuff. His owner had filled his feet with lamb's tallow. The grease threw the wet earth off like water off a duck's back, while the other horses "cupped" the mud and were held."

PHIL DWYER's string this year will consist of but eight—Long Beach, Handspring and six two-year-olds. The former will be put to steeplechasing. Handspring is said to have filled out and furnished amazingly. He now measures full sixteen hands, and with the exception of being still a bit light in his thighs could hardly be improved upon. Three of the two-year-olds are by Hanover, two by Maxim and one by Kinglike. The bay colt by Maxim, out of Napa, by Enquirer, is a young giant, standing close to 16.1 hands, and is a smooth goer. The other Maxim colt, out of Miss Clay, by Hindoo, is a good-looking, on the lengthy, level order.

THE Racing Calendar contains the announcement that W. M. Wallace's Stowaway, who was entered in the Suburban, is not eligible. Stowaway was formerly owned by McShea & Clark, and was in the forfeit list when sold to Wallace. Last season owners in the forfeit list were allowed to enter and race, provided they settled up at the end of each meeting. This year, however, the lines will be drawn more closely, and unless an owner's record is clear in the matter of forfeit his entries will not be accepted.

QUITE a number of the horsemen wintering at Gravesend intend shipping their strings to Benning's between the first and the tenth day of March, and should the weather continue of the same open nature as it has been so far there will certainly be no lack of horses at the initial meeting under the new management at Benning's. There are altogether about twenty horses at Brighton Beach and Gravesend that are being schooled for steeplechasing and hurdle racing.—N. Y. Mercury.

With the bursting of the buds and the awakening of song birds our Eastern visitors will hark themselves back to their haunts across the Rockies. The racing season will open at the Benning's track, Washington, in April, and it will be the preparing ground for the horses to engage in the Westchester meeting that will follow. Open weather is now the sole reliance of the Easterners for a successful early season.

By actual count 5,674 ladies passed through the gate at Ingleside Wednesday.